TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE IDW COLLECTION V13

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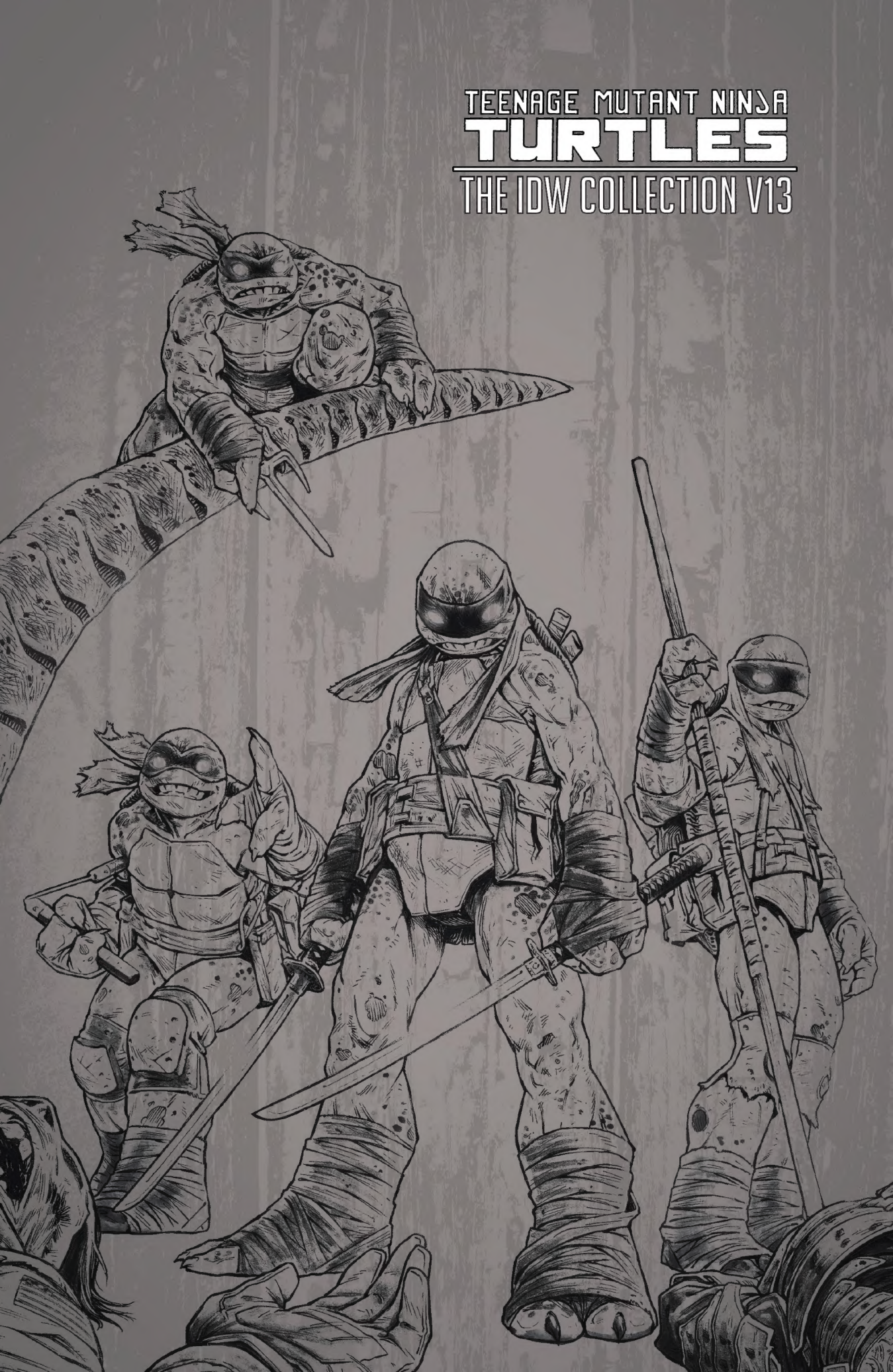

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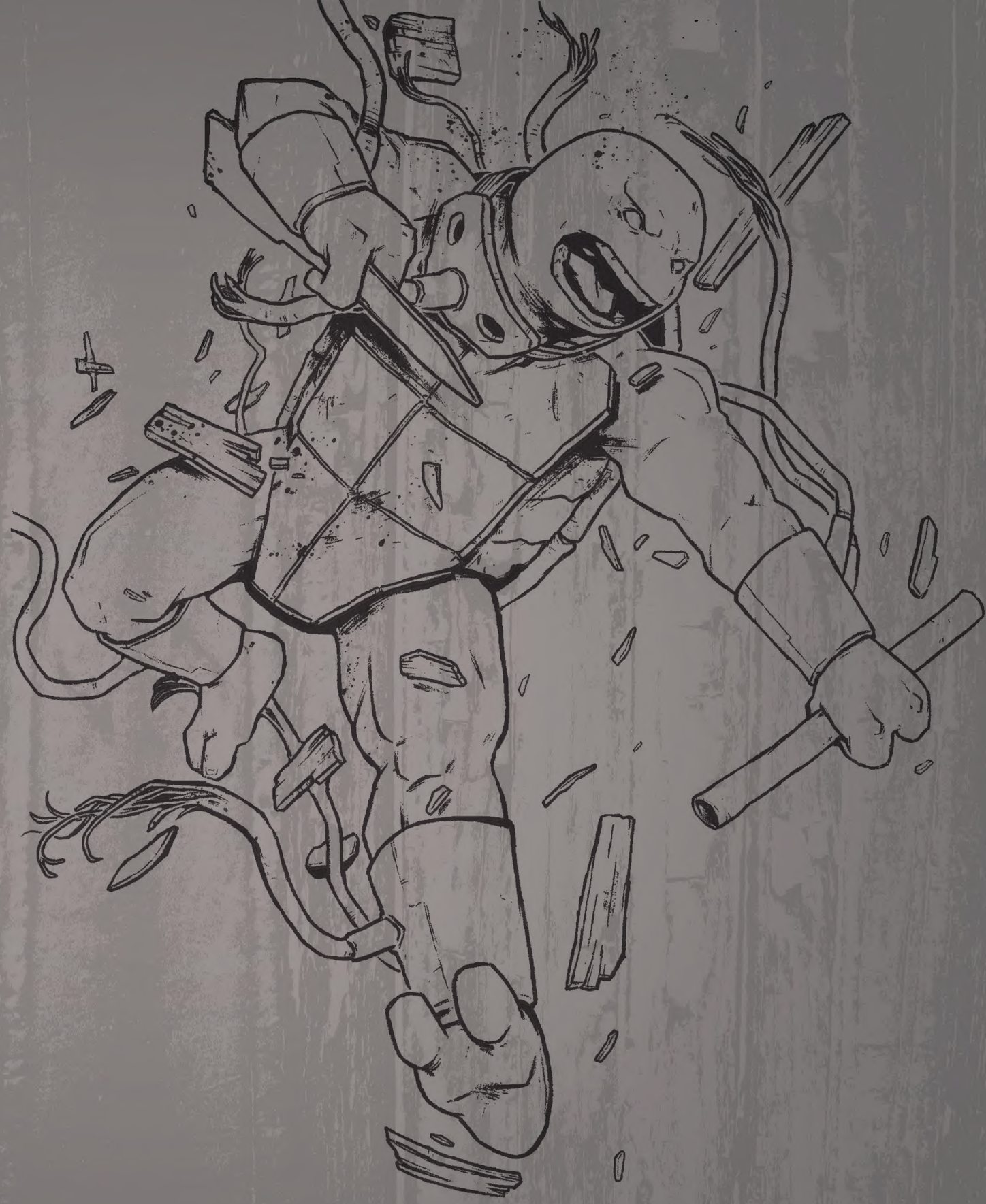

MACRO-SERIES: RAPHAEL ..... pg 6
story by KEVIN EASTMAN script by KEVIN EASTMAN & TOM WALTZ
layouts by KEVIN EASTMAN pencils and inks by BEN BISHOP
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script by TOM WALTZ art by MICHAEL DIALYNAS
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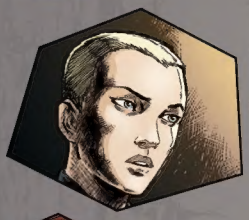

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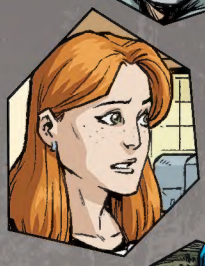

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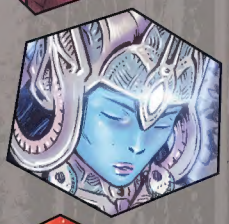

SHREDDER IN HELL #4 ..... pg 378
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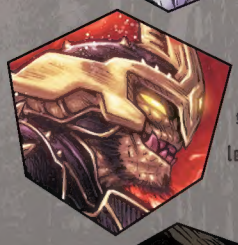

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script by TOM WALTZ art by DAVE WACHTER & MICHAEL DIALYNAS
additional art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO, ADAM GORHAM, DAN DUNCAN & CORY SMITH colors by RONDA PATTISON additional colors by BILL CRABTREE
letters by SHAWN LEE

art by DAVID PETERSEN

MACRO-SERIES:
RAPHAEL

"After your death, you will be what you were before your birth."
—Arthur Schopenhauer
"I'M KILLING IT..."

...DIDJA SEE *THAT* HIT?! *HA!*

TRY AND TOP *THAT*, TASER FACE!

LUCKY SHOT... YOU SWING LIKE A *TWO-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD BABOON!*

STAND BACK. I *GOT* THIS!

CENTRAL PARK EAST.

HA-HA! GOOD ONE!

OH... *AND* YOUR MOTHER'S A *RABID ANTEATER!*

MOTHER JOKES? YOU MUST *REALLY* WANT A BEAT-DOWN.

HEH. WE'LL SEE.

ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE RULES... AND I'LL TALK SLOW SO EVEN *YOU* WILL UNDERSTAND THEM.

TEN POINTS FOR THE WATER TOWER, *FIFTEEN* FOR THE BROKEN SATELLITE DISH, AND *TWENTY* FOR THE OLD BAR AND GRILL SIGN... AND IF YOU BREAK A WINDOW, YOU *LOSE FIFTY POINTS!*

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH... *EASY PEASY*, CHUMPINSKI! CLEAR THE DECK *ALREADY!*

AHHHHH, NO... CHANGED MY MIND. I'M ALL WARMED UP, SO *I'LL* GO FIRST! *HEH!*

STAND BACK, LARRY THE *LOSER!*

SKETCH HAUSER

HOLD UP A SEC... JUST TO BE CLEAR—NO DEREK JETER CRAP TONIGHT OR *ELSE!*

WHO... *ME?!*

HA! EAT YOUR *HEART* OUT, TIGER WOODS!

THA-WHACK

CHIRP

HEH! HEH!

FAWACK

OFF THE WICKET—THAT'S *FIVE RUNS!*

HA HAHAHA HAHA

BUTT-MUNCH! I SAID *NO BASEBALL!*

WHATAYA *BLIND?!* THAT WAS A *CRICKET* BAT, HOSE HEAD!

HA-HA! GET OFFA ME, YA *BIG APE!*

CENTRAL PARK.

BREAK RIGHT, ALOPEX—I'LL GO LEFT. MEET YOU IN THE *MIDDLE!*

NOT TONIGHT, ANGEL—I'M GOING *STRAIGHT IN.*

THIS EPF DIRT-BAG IS *ALL MINE!*

BLAM

MUTANT SCUM!

SCUM? REALLY? I THINK YOU'RE READING TOO MANY *COMIC BOOKS*, PAL!

VRK!

RAHHH!

ANSWERS *FIRST*, GIRLFRIEND...

KRAK

...THEN YOU CAN HAVE YOUR REVENGE!

SCRAK

FILTHY ANIMA—

DUMB MOVE, DUDE.

WHOP

REALLY DUMB.

NOW... WHERE THE *HELL* IS HE?!

"WHERE'S *RAPHAEL*?!"

"IT SHOULD BE *DEAD* ALREADY—

"—NO *HUMAN* COULD SURVIVE WHAT WE'VE *DONE* TO IT. BUT THEREIN LIES OUR *ISSUE* WITH THE MUTATIONS.

"THE *TURTLES*, HOWEVER, ARE *ESPECIALLY* REMARKABLE. I'VE OFTEN PONDERED WHAT GIVES *THEM* THE ADVANTAGE OVER THE OTHERS.

"I WONDER... WERE THEY *HUMANS* THAT MUTATED INTO TURTLES, OR *TURTLES* THAT MUTATED INTO HUMANOIDS?

"NOT THAT IT WILL *MATTER* MUCH LONGER. *TARGET R* WILL GIVE US *ALL* THE ANSWERS WE NEED ONCE IT IS *DISSECTED*.

"I JUST HAVE A FEW SIMPLE AND DIRECT *QUESTIONS* TO ASK FIRST... FOR MY PERSONAL JOURNALS.

"WAKE IT UP!"

BUZZAP

GRAAAH!

IS *THIS* WHAT YOU WANTED?!

ZZAP

YOU PICKED THIS FIGHT— BUT I'M SURE AS HELL GONNA *END* IT!

SMASH

AND I'M TAKIN' *ALL* OF YOU WITH ME!

EVERY!

SINGLE!

ONE!

GRAH! HA-HA!

ERRAH!

HAHAHAHA

HA-HA! SORE LOSER!

HAH!

OH, YEAH?! SORE LOSERS DON'T EAT *SNOWBALLS!*

OPEN *WIDE! YUMMY-YUM!*

THINK *AGAIN,* WIMPASAUROUSREX!

GAH!

YOU CALL YOURSELF A *NINJA?! HAH!*

YOU NEVER EVEN SAW THAT *COMIN'!*

WHAP

MAN, FEELS LIKE THAT'S THE *FIRST TIME* I LAUGHED IN LIKE... A YEAR.

DON'T KNOW HOW WE PULLED IT OFF WITH *HALF* THE CITY A CONSTRUCTION ZONE, AND THE *OTHER HALF* OVERRUN WITH GOVERNMENT IDIOTS.

YEAH, YOU WOULDN'T THINK FINDIN' *TEN STINKIN' MINUTES* TO GOOF OFF WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND WOULD BE SO HARD.

SIGN O' THE *TIMES,* I GUESS.

ANYHOO, WE GOT LIKE TWO HOURS BEFORE WE RELIEVE *ANGEL* AND *ALOPEX.* LET'S GRAB SOME PIZZA AND BRING AN *EXTRA* PIE FOR THEM.

THIS SNOWSTORM'S SUPPOSED TO GET *PRETTY NASTY,* SO I'M GONNA HIT THE LAIR FOR A SHOWER AND SOME HEAVIER GEAR.

GOT YOUR *COMM?*

YES, *MOTHER...* GOT MY COMM.

SAVE ME A FEW SLICES AND I'LL *MEET* YOU UP ON 7TH NEAR THE PARK. CARNEGIE HALL-ISH.

I'LL *BUZZ* YOU WHEN I GET THERE.

OH... AND IF I DO ALL MY CHORES DO I GET *DESSERT,* TOO?

KEEP IT UP, MISTER MAN, AND YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF I BRING YOU AN EMPTY, GREASY PIZZA BOX TO *CHEW* ON FOR DINNER!

YOU KNOW, FOR SOMEONE THAT WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THIS *CITY,* YOU'D THINK YOU'D KNOW HOW TO *DRESS* FOR WINTER!

AND FOR SOMEONE WHO'S KNOWN ME SO LONG...

...YOU'D THINK YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO TURN YOUR *BACK* ON A NINJA!

HYAH!

FAWAP

AH! LUCKY SHOT! DIDN'T HURT!

CENTRAL PARK WEST.

HOW LONG BEFORE THE *BOYS* TAKE OVER? I'M *STARVING!*

ONE HOUR AND FORTY-SIX MINUTES. THEN I'M GONNA TAKE A HOT BATH THAT LASTS FOR *THREE DAYS*...

THOSE CHOPPERS ARE *STRANGE*. I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM *BEFORE* TONIGHT.

EPF UPGRADES FOR SURE.

GUESSIN' SOMEONE *INCREASED* THEIR BUDGETS AFTER THE INVASION.

BET WE DON'T KNOW *HALF* THE STUFF THEY'VE GOT IN USE.

AND SUDDENLY THERE'S A *LOT* OF THEM... ESPECIALLY FOR *THIS* AREA.

YEAH, LIKE *THREE* IN TEN MINUTES.

THEY'RE RUNNIN' *PATTERNS*—TRIANGULATED, IN STEADY CIRCLES AROUND THAT SMALL, FUNKY EPF POP-UP COMMAND CENTER IN *COLUMBUS CIRCLE* WE SAW A FEW DAYS AGO.

SOMETHIN' *WEIRD* IS GOIN' ON OVER THERE—LET'S TAKE *ANOTHER* LOOK.

MORE EPF *BOOTS* ON THE GROUND THESE DAYS, TOO.

NEW YORK DOESN'T NEED *THAT* KINDA PROTECTION FOR REBUILDING.

AND WAY TOO MANY *RANDOM CHECKPOINTS* AT STREET LEVEL, *LOOKOUT POSTS* ON ALL LEVELS... EVEN NEW *MOVEMENT SENSORS* ON THE ROOFTOPS.

BISHOP IS TAKING *FULL ADVANTAGE* OF THE CHAOS TO PUSH THE LIMITS.

THAT *CAN'T* BE GOOD FOR *ANY* OF US.

WHOA—*HEADS UP!*

ROARRR

DOUBLE WHOA. THAT'S HEAVY-DUTY COVERAGE FOR...

...SOMETHING *ELSE* TOP SECRET. CHECK *THAT* OUT.

NEARLY *ZERO* SOUND... AND THAT'S SAYING A LOT FOR *THESE* EARS.

RIGHT NOW, I'D GIVE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO *UNKNOW* WHAT WE KNOW, YOU KNOW?

THAT STUFF *WE* KNOW THAT MOST PEOPLE *DON'T* KNOW, SO, *UM*, I COULD *SLEEP* AT NIGHT BY NOT WORRYIN' ABOUT WHAT *THEY* DON'T KNOW... OR *SOMETHIN'* LIKE THAT.

DITTO.

IT'S LANDING NEAR THE PARK. SHALL WE GO *NOT KNOW* MORE?

ARE YOU FREAKIN' *KIDDIN'* ME?

"THIS CAN'T BE *POSSIBLE*, ANGEL. THEIR *LITTLE* COMMAND POST SEEMS TO HAVE MORE THAN *TRIPLED* IN SIZE OVERNIGHT!"

"I'LL GET A *LOT* OF PICTURES. LET'S SEE WHAT DONNIE AND HAROLD *MAKE* OF THIS, ALOPEX... OTHER THAN THIS IS *SOOOO NOT GOOD!*"

WHAT'S THE *ETA* ON TARGET R?

THEY'RE BRINGING IT IN *NOW*, SIR.

I DESIGNED THIS ACTION TO BE A *SURGICAL STRIKE*, AGENT ZARAGOZA. I WANT THE TARGET SECURED, TRANSITIONED, *AND* THE PIECES REMOVED FROM THIS LOCATION IN TWENTY MINUTES... ARE WE *TRACKING?*

INCLUDING NINETY SECONDS OF YOUR *PERSONAL TIME* WITH TARGET R BEFORE PROCESSING... WE ARE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT *ON* SCHEDULE.

GOOD. THIS *WILL* CHANGE EVERYTHING... AS WELL AS OFFER UP A BIT OF PERSONAL *ENTERTAINMENT.*

YES, SIR.

OH, CRAP— IT'S *BISHOP*. AND I THINK I KNOW *WHAT'S* IN THAT CAGE.

YOU'D THINK BEIN' A REPTILE, I'D HATE WINTER, BUT, MAN, I *LOVE* IT.

MOST EVERYONE HIDES *INSIDE* WHEN IT'S COLD LIKE THIS, WHICH MAKES IT WAY EASIER TO BE *ALONE*.

THE KINDA ALONE MOST PEOPLE ARE *SCARED* OF.

EVERY SECOND WITHOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHIN' *MESSIN'* WITH YOU... *TALKIN'* TO YOU... *YELLIN'* AT YOU...

...TRYIN' TO *KILL* YOU.

FROM THE SECOND I WAS *REINCARNATED* HERE—BEFORE MEETIN' CASEY, BEFORE REJOININ' MY BROTHERS... AND EVEN BEFORE *ALL* THAT, MEETIN' *BLIND BUCK*... THERE'S *ALWAYS* BEEN SOMEONE "ALL UP" IN MY BUSINESS.

SO I'LL TAKE THIS *PEACEFUL MOMENT* IN TIME...

HELP!

...FOR ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX SECONDS... AND IT'S *OVER*.

WAIT... IS THAT... *BUCK?*

OVER HERE! HURRY!

YEP! OL' BLIND BUCK LIKES TO BE *ALONE* ALL RIGHT... RIGHT UP *UNTIL* HE'S ALONE! *HEH!*

THEN HE GETS BORED AND LOOKS FOR NEW COMPANY... TO GET *RID* OF, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! CIRCLE OF *LIFE*, RIGHT? *HEH!*

SO... YOU A *LONER* LIKE ME SON? DON'T BE *SCARED*... COME ON OVER AND GET YOURSELF WARM.

WAIT, WHAT?! *BUCK?!* WHERE THE *HELL* DID THAT COME FROM?

TOTAL BRAIN FART—BUCK'S BEEN *GONE* A LONG TIME.

HEY, DUDE! WHY AIN'T YOU OVER AT THE *SHELTER?!*

HEY! SLOW DOWN!

THUMP *AHHH!*

AW, POOP ON A STICK!

HOLD ON... I'M COMIN'!

DUDE?! YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I AM—BUT *YOU?*

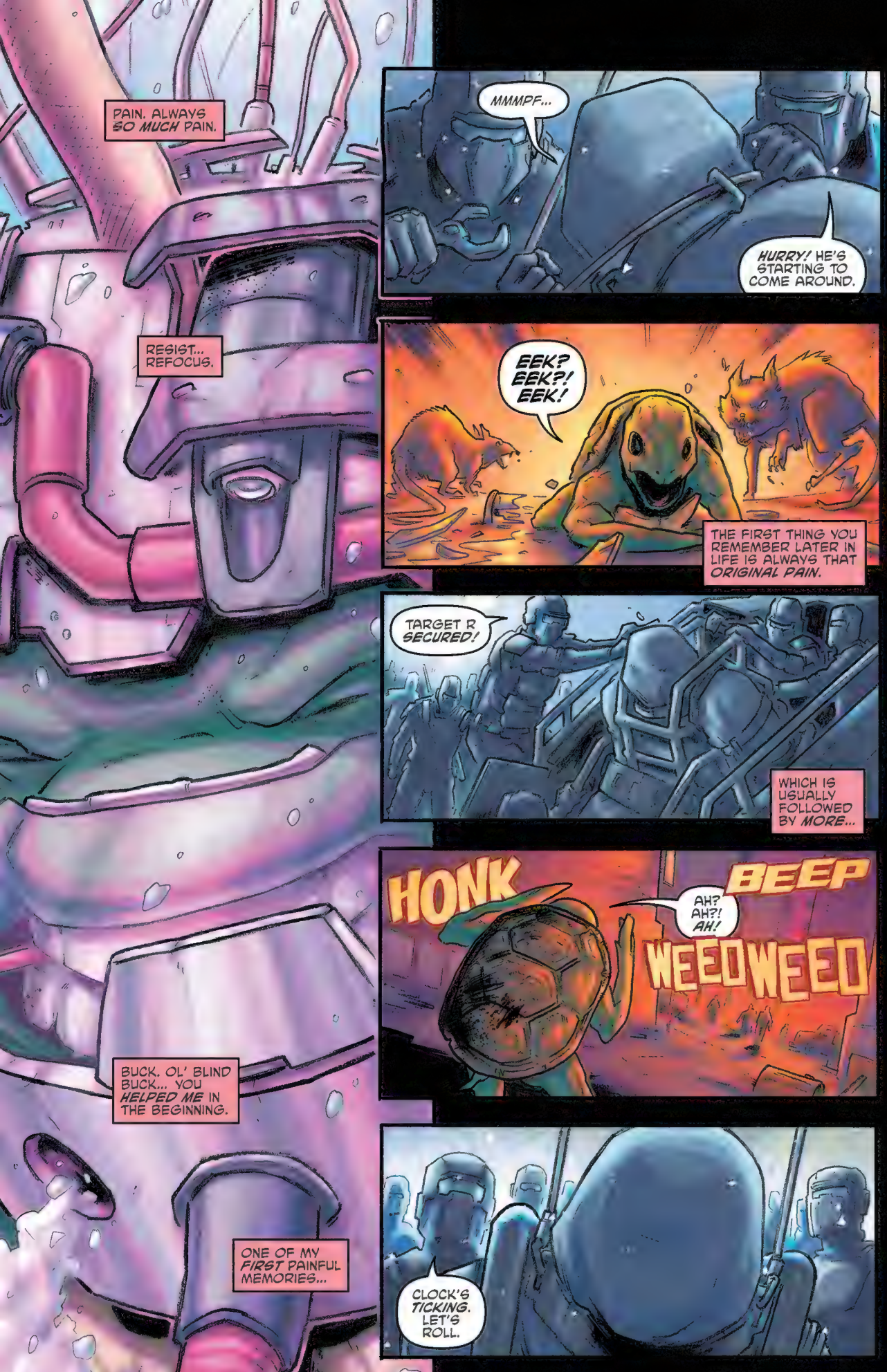
NOT SO MUCH.

HEY! WHAT?!

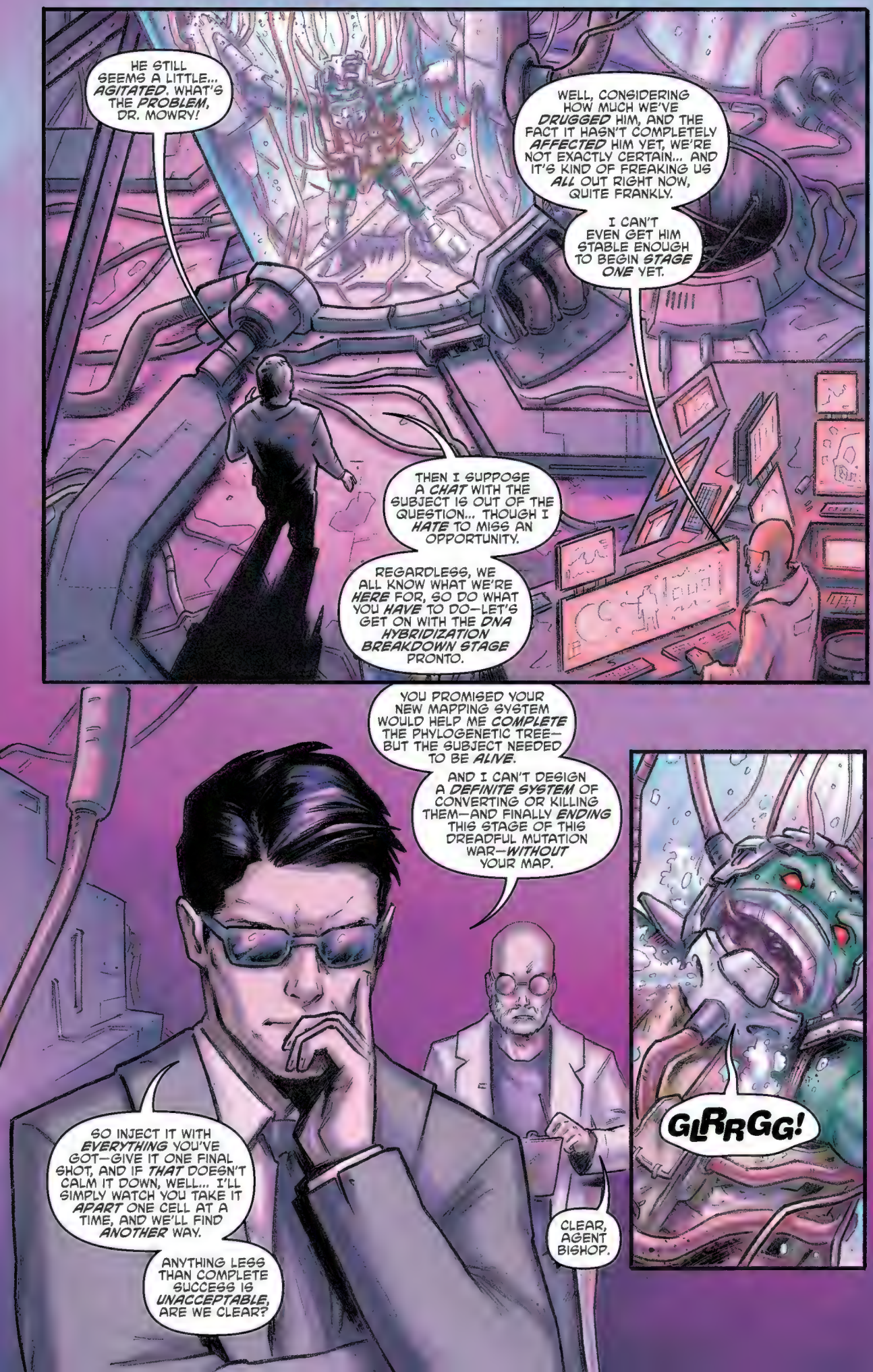
BUZZ

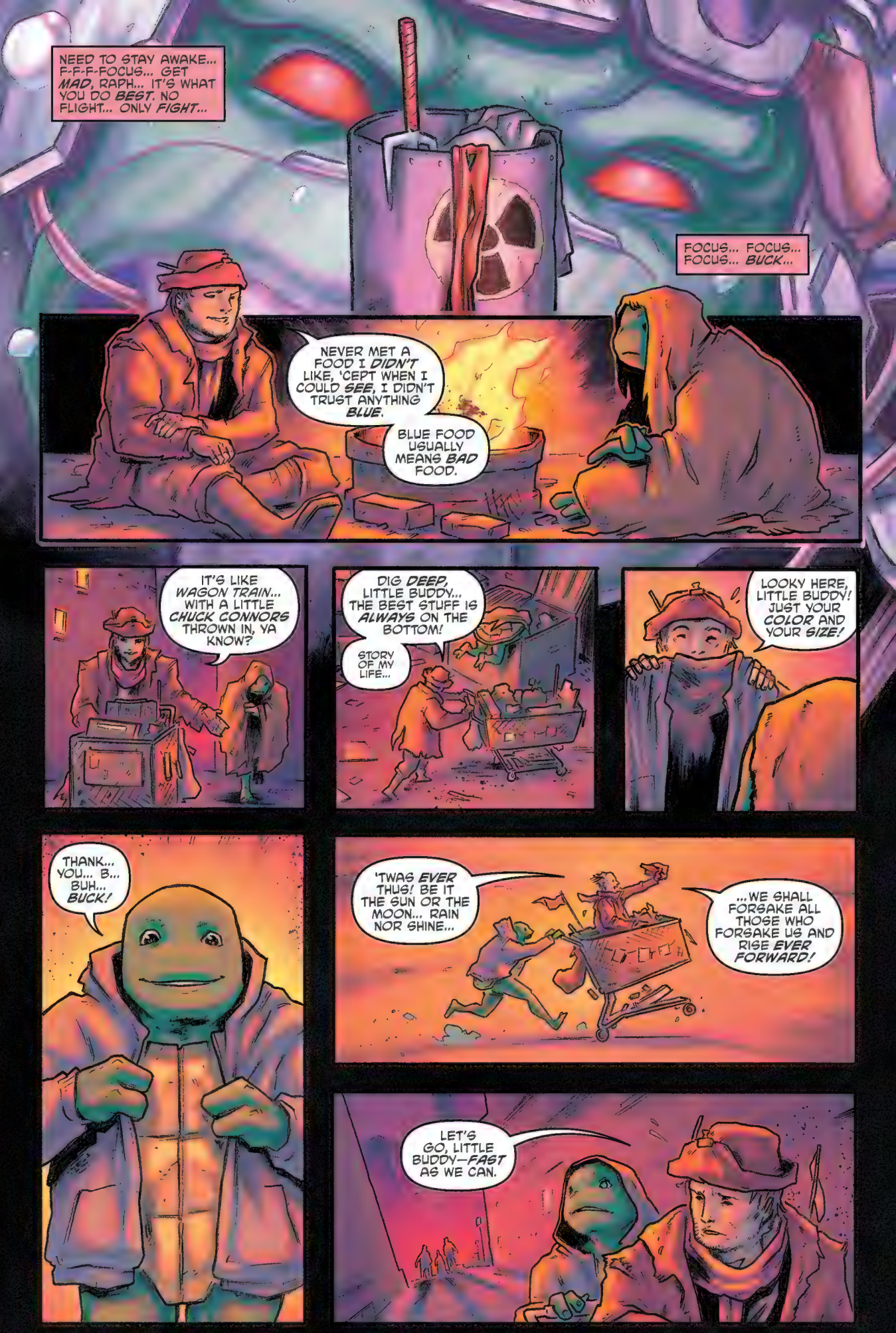
AHHH!

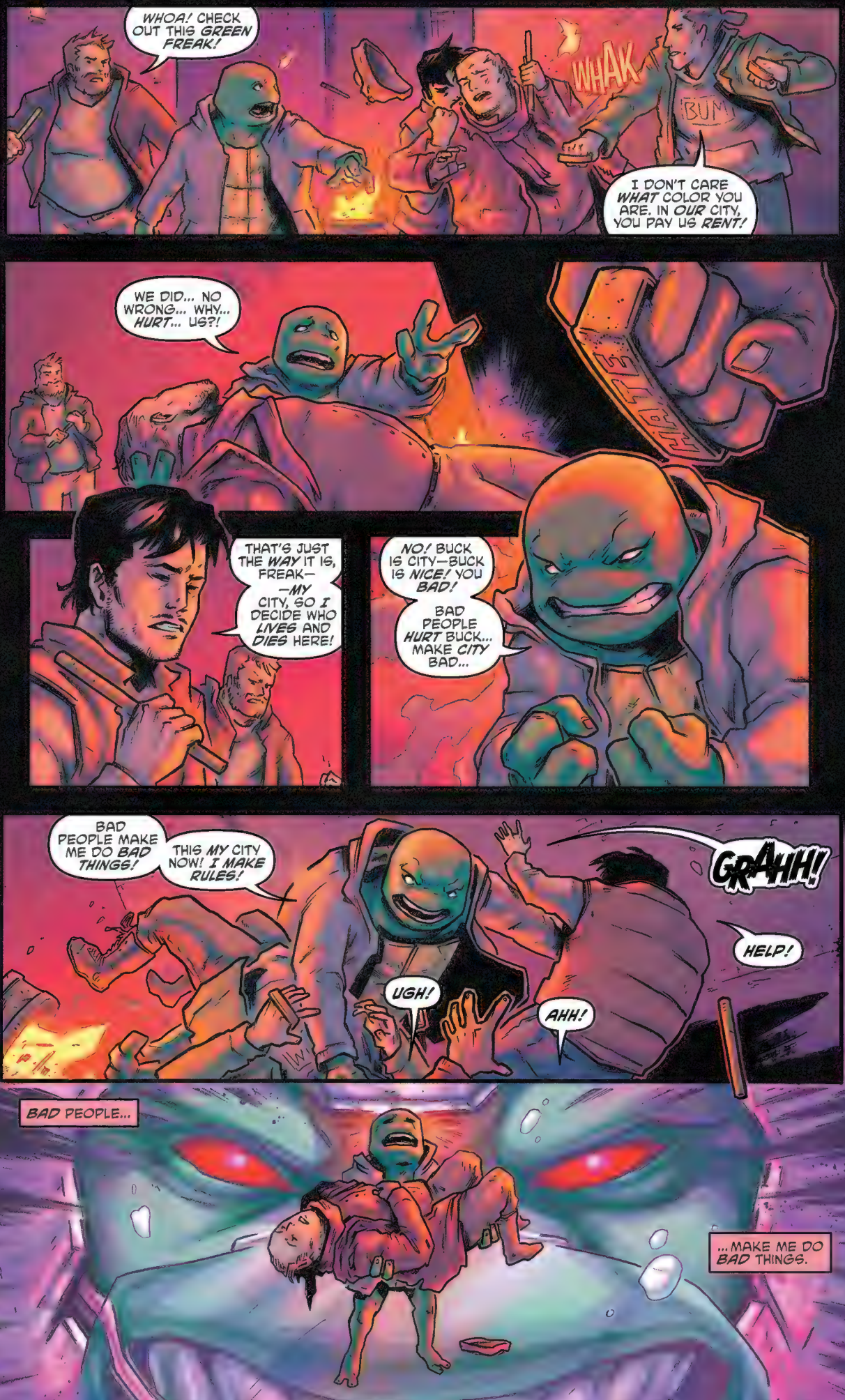
BUZZ

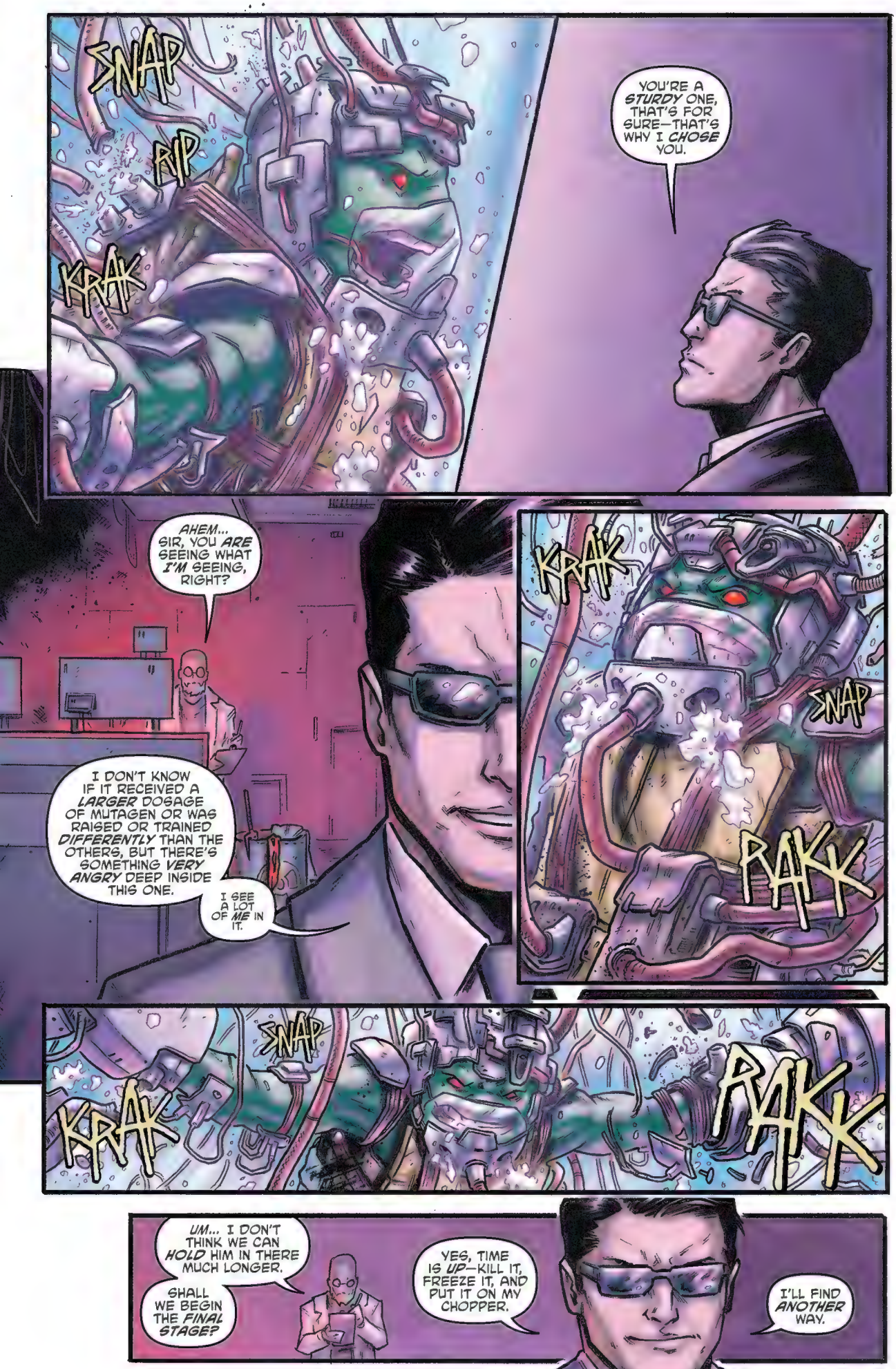

PAIN. ALWAYS SO MUCH PAIN.
RESIST... REFOCUS.
BUCK. OL' BLIND BUCK... YOU HELPED ME IN THE BEGINNING.
ONE OF MY FIRST PAINFUL MEMORIES...
MMMPF...
HURRY! HE'S STARTING TO COME AROUND.
EEK? EEK?! EEK!
THE FIRST THING YOU REMEMBER LATER IN LIFE IS ALWAYS THAT ORIGINAL PAIN.
TARGET R SECURED!
WHICH IS USUALLY FOLLOWED BY MORE...
HONK
BEEP
AH? AH?! AH!
WEEOWEEO
CLOCK'S TICKING. LET'S ROLL.

AHHH!
AHHH! AHHH!
GET OFFA THE ROAD, YA BUM!
HONK HONK
BEEP
AH! AH! ≠WHEEZE≠ AH!
CRASH
OW! HEY!
EEEK!
≠WHIMPER≠
THERE, THERE, FELLA—IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT HURT, NO WORRIES.
HERE, THIS'LL HELP... MY NAME'S BUCK.
BLIND BUCK THEY CALL ME, 'CAUSE I'M BLIND IN ONE EYE AND CAN'T SEE OUT OF THE OTHER! HA-HA!
I FOOL THEM ALL—I CAN SEE... A LITTLE... MOSTLY SHAPES AND SHADOWS.
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. YOU TAKE IT EASY—YOU'RE NOT ALONE. YOU CAN HANG WITH ME TONIGHT... IT'S BEEN A GOOD DAY. I HAVE SOME FOOD TO SHARE.
B... BUH... BUCK?


HE STILL SEEMS A LITTLE... AGITATED. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, DR. MOWRY!
WELL, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH WE'VE DRUGGED HIM, AND THE FACT IT HASN'T COMPLETELY AFFECTED HIM YET, WE'RE NOT EXACTLY CERTAIN... AND IT'S KIND OF FREAKING US ALL OUT RIGHT NOW, QUITE FRANKLY.
I CAN'T EVEN GET HIM STABLE ENOUGH TO BEGIN STAGE ONE YET.
THEN I SUPPOSE A CHAT WITH THE SUBJECT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION... THOUGH I HATE TO MISS AN OPPORTUNITY.
REGARDLESS, WE ALL KNOW WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, SO DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO—LET'S GET ON WITH THE DNA HYBRIDIZATION BREAKDOWN STAGE PRONTO.
YOU PROMISED YOUR NEW MAPPING SYSTEM WOULD HELP ME COMPLETE THE PHYLOGENETIC TREE—BUT THE SUBJECT NEEDED TO BE ALIVE.
AND I CAN'T DESIGN A DEFINITE SYSTEM OF CONVERTING OR KILLING THEM—AND FINALLY ENDING THIS STAGE OF THIS DREADFUL MUTATION WAR—WITHOUT YOUR MAP.
GLRRGG!
SO INJECT IT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT—GIVE IT ONE FINAL SHOT, AND IF THAT DOESN'T CALM IT DOWN, WELL... I'LL SIMPLY WATCH YOU TAKE IT APART ONE CELL AT A TIME, AND WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY.
ANYTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE SUCCESS IS UNACCEPTABLE, ARE WE CLEAR?
CLEAR, AGENT BISHOP.


NEED TO STAY AWAKE... F-F-F-FOCUS... GET MAD, RAPH... IT'S WHAT YOU DO BEST. NO FLIGHT... ONLY FIGHT...
FOCUS... FOCUS... FOCUS... BUCK...
NEVER MET A FOOD I DIDN'T LIKE, 'CEPT WHEN I COULD SEE, I DIDN'T TRUST ANYTHING BLUE.
BLUE FOOD USUALLY MEANS BAD FOOD.
IT'S LIKE WAGON TRAIN... WITH A LITTLE CHUCK CONNORS THROWN IN, YA KNOW?
DIG DEEP, LITTLE BUDDY... THE BEST STUFF IS ALWAYS ON THE BOTTOM!
STORY OF MY LIFE...
LOOKY HERE, LITTLE BUDDY! JUST YOUR COLOR AND YOUR SIZE!
THANK... YOU... B... BUH... BUCK!
'TWAS EVER THUS! BE IT THE SUN OR THE MOON... RAIN NOR SHINE...
...WE SHALL FORSAKE ALL THOSE WHO FORSAKE US AND RISE EVER FORWARD!
LET'S GO, LITTLE BUDDY—FAST AS WE CAN.


WHOA! CHECK OUT THIS GREEN FREAK!
WHAK
I DON'T CARE WHAT COLOR YOU ARE. IN OUR CITY, YOU PAY US RENT!
WE DID... NO WRONG... WHY... HURT... US?!
THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS, FREAK— —MY CITY, SO I DECIDE WHO LIVES AND DIES HERE!
NO! BUCK IS CITY—BUCK IS NICE! YOU BAD!
BAD PEOPLE HURT BUCK... MAKE CITY BAD...
BAD PEOPLE MAKE ME DO BAD THINGS!
THIS MY CITY NOW! I MAKE RULES!
GRAHH!
HELP!
UGH!
AHH!
BAD PEOPLE...
...MAKE ME DO BAD THINGS.


SNAP
RIP
KRAK
YOU'RE A STURDY ONE, THAT'S FOR SURE—THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU.
AHEM... SIR, YOU ARE SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT RECEIVED A LARGER DOSAGE OF MUTAGEN OR WAS RAISED OR TRAINED DIFFERENTLY THAN THE OTHERS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING VERY ANGRY DEEP INSIDE THIS ONE.
I SEE A LOT OF ME IN IT.
KRAK
SNAP
RAKK
KRAK
SNAP
RAKK
UM... I DON'T THINK WE CAN HOLD HIM IN THERE MUCH LONGER.
SHALL WE BEGIN THE FINAL STAGE?
YES, TIME IS UP—KILL IT, FREEZE IT, AND PUT IT ON MY CHOPPER.
I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY.

ARE YOU *KIDDING ME?!*

KENO'S PIZZA

DELIVER

IF I PAY FOR—AND EAT—A WHOLE SUPREME PIE IN THREE MINUTES, I GET TWO MORE PIZZAS *FREE!*

COME ON—*THAT'S* A FAIR BET!

KENO'S PIZZA

CASEY! *CASEY!* ARE YOU *OKAY?!* COME IN!

PIZZA

DAMN IT! STILL NO ANSWER!

THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM *OUT* WHEN THEY GRABBED RAPHAEL!

WE CAN'T *WAIT* ANY LONGER TO GET HELP—LET'S BLAST OUT A *CODE RED* TO THE REST OF THE TEAM AND GO *GET* HIM!

SHAKK

SNAP

POP

DAMN STRAIGHT! THEY AIN'T GETTIN' *ANOTHER ONE* OF US TONIGHT!

GRAHH!

WHAKK

THUD

RIP

BIZZAP

CRASH

WHAT ARE YOU *WAITING* FOR, YOU IMBECILE?

KILL TARGET R!

IT'S TOO LATE—ALL THE CONNECTIONS ARE *BROKEN!*

LOOK OUT! IT'S GETTING READY TO—

KENO'S PIZZ

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING *THAT GROSS* IN MY *ENTIRE LIFE...*

BURRRPP

WELL, A DEAL'S A DEAL—I'LL TAKE A CHEESE *AND* A MEAT-LOVERS TO GO!

GRAHHH!

SMASHHH

THOSE GRENADES HAVE 'EM *ALL CONFUSED!* DON'T STOP!

WHOA—WHAT THE HECK? ANOTHER *ALIEN INVASION?!*

BOMB BLASTS... NOT GOOD.

RAPH.

LOCK THE DOORS, SHUT OFF THE LIGHTS, AND *CALL 911!*

WE GOTTA MOVE *FASTER!* THIS PLACE IS COMPLETELY UNSTABLE—ALL *TEMPORARY* CONSTRUCTION!

SIR, I HAVE REPORTS COMING IN FROM *ALL OVER* THE COMPOUND—WE ARE UNDER A *LARGE-SCALE ASSAULT* FROM *UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS.*

YOU MUST *EVACUATE!*

NONSENSE. MY WORK ISN'T *DONE* HERE.

ENOUGH, BISHOP! NO MORE PAIN! IT ENDS *NOW*... TODAY...

...STARTING WITH *YOU!*

HA! I'M JUST GETTING *STARTED* WITH YOU AND YOUR *KIND!*

RAAHHH

WE GOTTA *FIND* RAPHAEL!

HE HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE! *MORE SMOKE!*

SSSSSSSS

WUMP

KABOOM

AHHHHHH!

HOLD TIGHT, ALOPEX!

BLAHBAM

FUWHUMP

GAH!

OHMYGOD! OHMYGOD! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

RAPH?! RAPH?!

RAPH! YOU *IN* THERE?!

UNGH!

WUMP

RAPH... WHAT HAVE WE *DONE*...

RAPH!

SECURE THE AREA AND FIND THE *BODY* OF THE MUTANT TURTLE!

IT'S STILL OF *USE* TO ME!

TARGET R LOCATED... *ALIVE!*

HEADING INTO *CENTRAL PARK!*

UNGH...

DAMN *STRAIGHT* I'M ALIVE... AND *I'M* GONNA CHOOSE THE FIELD OF BATTLE THIS TIME.

I SAID... NO MORE!

GAHH!

BISHOP WANTS HIM *ALIVE* IF POSSIBLE!

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE—TAKE OUT AN *EXTREMITY* IF HE GETS TOO FAR!

COMING INTO RANGE. I'LL HAVE A *CLEAR LINE OF SIGHT* IN TEN SECONDS—ORDERS?

THIS IS BISHOP. TAKE HIM *DOWN!* LIMBS FIRST!

I HAVE TRANSPORT *INBOUND!*

YOU'RE IN *MY* WORLD NOW!

SMASH

BASH

LET ME SHARE SOME...

CRUNCH

...PAIN!

PERFECT...

KRAK

COME ON, CHUMPS! PLAYTIME *AIN'T OVER* YET!

AH, GEEZ... BRO...

...NO.

WHAM

RAH!

TAKING THE *SHOT!*

SPAT

BLAM

THAT HURT...

YOU'RE *FINE*... JUST NEED A MINUTE TO RECUPERATE.

THE COLD... FEELS GOOD... HELPS *EASE* THE PAIN.

TIRED... SO TIRED OF THE PAIN. THE DARKNESS... IS *WELCOMING*...

PULLIN' ME... TOWARDS THE *LIGHT*...

HERE'S HIS *SAI*--HE'S STILL GOTTA BE *IN THERE* SOMEWHERE.

RAPH! WHERE *ARE* YOU?!

BLAM BLAM

GUNFIRE IN THE PARK. EITHER HE'S *THERE*, OR THE PEOPLE THAT *DID* THIS TO HIM ARE.

EITHER WAY, SOMEONE'S GONNA *PAY!*

NOTHING... HE'S *NOT* HERE. MAYBE HE GOT OUT SOMEHOW.

SHOTS FIRED AND *EPF* HEADING FOR THE PARK!

LET'S GO SEE *WHAT* THEY'RE CHASING!

LIGHT... FROM A DRAIN... PERFECT... I CAN REST...

PEACEFUL DOWN HERE... NOT LIKE *OUT THERE*. EVERY MEMORY I HAVE IS...

...PAIN! STOP *HURTIN'* ME! LEAVE ME *ALONE!*

LEAVE US *ALL* ALONE! THAT'S *ALL* WE EVER WANTED... TO BE LEFT ALONE... SAFE...

LIKE IN THE *BEGINNING*... SAFE AND WARM.

DO NOT BE *AFRAID*, MY LITTLE FIGHTER... YOU MUST COME TO *ME* NOW. THE WORLD IS WAITING... THIS IS NOT YOUR END--THIS IS YOUR *BEGINNING*.

I WILL KEEP YOU SAFE...

BUT YOU COULDN'T, *COULD* YOU? IT'D BE EASIER TO CONTROL THE *WIND* THAN THE *EVIL* THAT MADE OUR WORLD...

MY SONS... FORGIVE ME. THIS IS NOT OUR END--WE WILL BE *TOGETHER* AGAIN...

BUT FOR WHAT *PURPOSE*, FATHER? REVENGE? WAR? IS IT *EVER* GONNA END?

ALL LIFE HAS *PURPOSE*, MY SON... AND IN EACH, THE WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL *NEVER* ENDS.

WE CANNOT *CONTROL* WHAT WE ARE GIVEN IN EACH, BUT WE CAN *CHOOSE* WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THAT WE ARE GIVEN.

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE BUDDY, THIS AIN'T THE *END*... JUST TIME TO SEE *WHAT'S* NEXT.

Y'KNOW, WHEN I WENT BLIND, I THOUGHT IT WAS *OVER*. BUT IF I'D GIVEN UP, I NEVER WOULD'VE MET *YOU*.

THEY ARE *BOTH* RIGHT, MY SON... YOUR FATHER AND YOUR FRIEND. LIFE IS A JOURNEY WE ULTIMATELY FACE *ALONE*. WE CHOOSE OUR OWN PATH... OFTEN A *PAINFUL* ONE... AND THAT IS WHY I MADE YOU SO *STUBBORN*... SO *STRONG*.

I WANTED YOU TO BE THE *ROCK*... THE ONE THEY LOOK TO... THAT THEY *CLING* TO IN THE STORM. THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS PRESS YOU, PUSH YOU, TRY TO *CHANGE* YOU... BUT DEEP INSIDE THEIR SOULS, THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU KNOW YOU WILL *NEVER* SURRENDER.

THAT IS WHAT THEY COUNT ON. THEY KNOW YOU WILL TAKE THE *PAIN*... AND THEY KNOW THAT YOU WILL *FIGHT*.

LIAR! LIAR!

YOU ARE MY *WARRIOR*... DO WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO! *FIGHT!*

I DON'T *WANNA* BE THE STRONGEST. I NEVER WANTED TO FIGHT! WHY DID YOU CHOOSE *ME*?!

NOBODY KNOWS, BUT ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE IS A *FARMER*—

FUMP

—I JUST WANTED TO *GROW* THINGS... *RAISE* THINGS. TO LIVE IN *PEACE*.

INSTEAD, THE ONLY THING THAT GROWS IS MY *ANGER!*

AND THEN THEY TOOK EVERYTHING... TOOK YOU FROM ME... KILLED US, AND THEY'RE *STILL* HERE... HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER... EVERYONE I CARE ABOUT... *ALWAYS* IN DANGER!

WHY WON'T EVERYONE JUST LEAVE ME *ALONE*?!

REEET

BECAUSE YOU DO WHAT IS *RIGHT*, CHILD. YOU ARE WILLING TO *FIGHT* FOR THOSE YOU LOVE. THEY NEED YOU, AND I NEED YOU TO *PROTECT* THEM. FIGHT, MY SON... THAT IS YOUR *PURPOSE* IN THIS LIFE.

FAWOSH

THAT AIN'T *FAIR*, MOTHER...

BAD PEOPLE MAKE ME DO *BAD THINGS*... I GET SO...

...OR IF I EVEN *WANNA* COME BACK.

HERE THEY *COME* AGAIN. I NEED TO DO MORE... *BAD THINGS.*

BISHOP WANTS A *BODY!* SEARCH *EVERY* INCH AND BREAK UP THE ICE! DIVERS INBOUND!

...ANGRY.

SO *DAMN* ANGRY.

I WONDER IF I CAN *CONTROL* IT... IF I CAN *COME BACK* FROM IT...

VERY BAD.

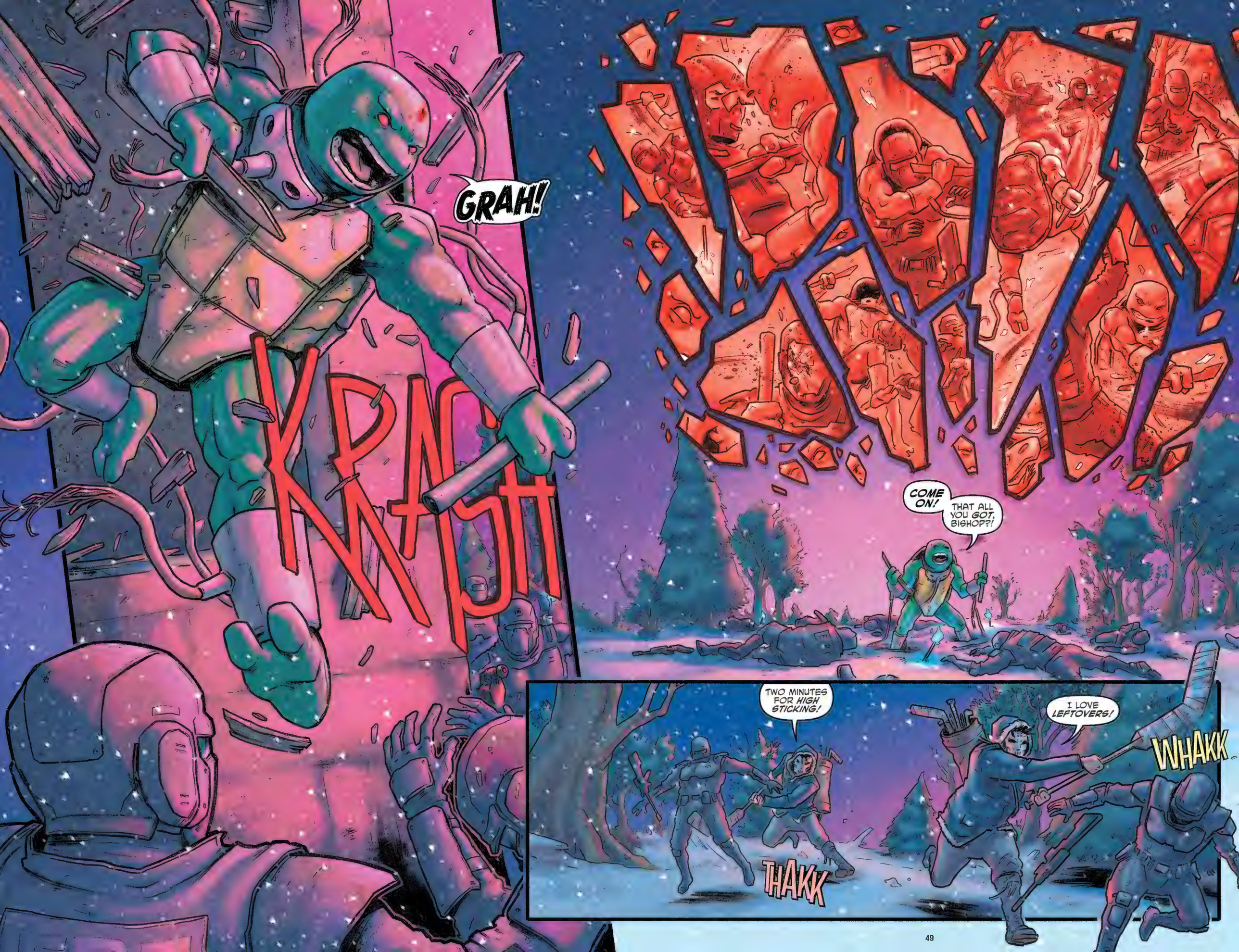
SHNK

WHERE IS RAPHAEL?!

THERE... MOVEMENT. *FLARES.*

FLARES! HERE WE GO...

WHAT'RE WE HUNTIN' *TONIGHT,* BOYS?!


GRAH!
KRASH
COME ON!
THAT ALL YOU GOT, BISHOP?!
TWO MINUTES FOR HIGH STICKING!
THAKK
I LOVE LEFTOVERS!
WHAKK

RAPH!
HOLY CROW... BRO... YOU OKAY?!
BAD!
WHAT THE—
UNNG...
BUCK, IS THAT YOU...?
IT'S CASEY, DUDE.
OH... HEY, BRO...
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
WHAT'S UP... DID YOU SAVE ME ANY PIZZA?
HEADS UP, GUYS. THRILLED YOU'RE BOTH ALIVE, BUT WE GOT INCOMING, AND THEY'RE MOVING FAST!
YEAH, YEAH, BRO... ALL THE PIZZA YOU CAN EAT BACK AT THE LAIR. HERE'S MY COAT—LET'S WARM YOU UP A LITTLE...
AND WE GOT CHOPPERS HEADIN' THIS WAY.
THE SNOW WILL HELP, BUT WE GOTTA GET UNDERGROUND FAST...
THIS WAY—THERE'S SOME BIG DRAINAGE EXITS NEAR THE ZOO!
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY WOUNDED YOU'RE DEALING WITH—WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, YES?!
YES, SIR, BUT...
...TARGET R AND THE STRIKE FORCE THAT ATTACKED THE BASE ARE GONE.
WE'VE GOT GROUND PERSONNEL OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE WE HAVE IN THE AIR...
BRING IN MORE MEN! TEAR THE ENTIRE PARK APART IF YOU HAVE TO—I WANT THEM FOUND!
AND I WANT THIS PLACE BACK UP AND FUNCTIONAL IN THE NEXT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!
THAT DIDN'T GO EXACTLY AS PLANNED, SIR.
NOT A PROBLEM. I'LL SIMPLY MOVE ON TO PHASE TWO IMMEDIATELY.
WE'RE CLEAR—ABOUT THREE BLOCKS FROM CENTRAL PARK.
WE CAN EITHER STAY UNDERGROUND OR HIT THE SURFACE STREETS, WHICH ARE QUICKER BUT RISKIER.
I SAY WE STAY ABOVE GROUND. LOTS OF BACK ALLEYS AND CONSTRUCTION AREAS FOR COVERAGE.
I NEVER BEEN A HUGE FAN OF THE SEWERS, ANYWAYS. LET'S GET BACK TO THE LAIR QUICK AS POSSIBLE.
YEAH... YEAH... I NEED TO WALK...
WE SHOULD CONTACT LEO AND LET HIM KNOW WE'RE ALL CLEAR.
THEN GO SEE DON AND HAROLD—GET RAPH SOME MEDICAL ATTENTION.
HE JUST NEEDS FOOD, TRUST ME.
I JUST NEED A FEW MINUTES ALONE TO THINK THIS ALL THROUGH.
HERE. FOUND 'EM OUTSIDE THE COMPLEX. YOUR BANDANA IS A LITTLE TOASTED—AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE SAI. COULDN'T FIND YOUR JACKET.
OH, MAN, YOU'RE THE BEST. I'LL GET THE OTHER SAI BACK... TRUST ME. BUT THE HOODIE...
...NEED ONE MORE FAVOR, BRO.
SURE, MAN, ANYTHING YOU NEED... ALWAYS. LET'S GO EAT AND HANG!
JUST NEED SOME SPACE, BRO... I HAVE TO PROCESS THIS ALONE. COOL?
UM, YEAH... YEAH, SURE... I UNDERSTAND. I'LL SWING BY THE LAIR FIRST THING TOMORROW AND WE'LL CATCH UP.
CASEY! YOU'RE NOT GONNA LET HIM JUST—
IT'S COOL, ANGEL, DON'T WORRY.
"RAPH'S GOT THIS."

AND I ALWAYS GOT YOUR BACK, BRO.
ALWAYS.
MANIACS
END.

art by RYAN BROWN

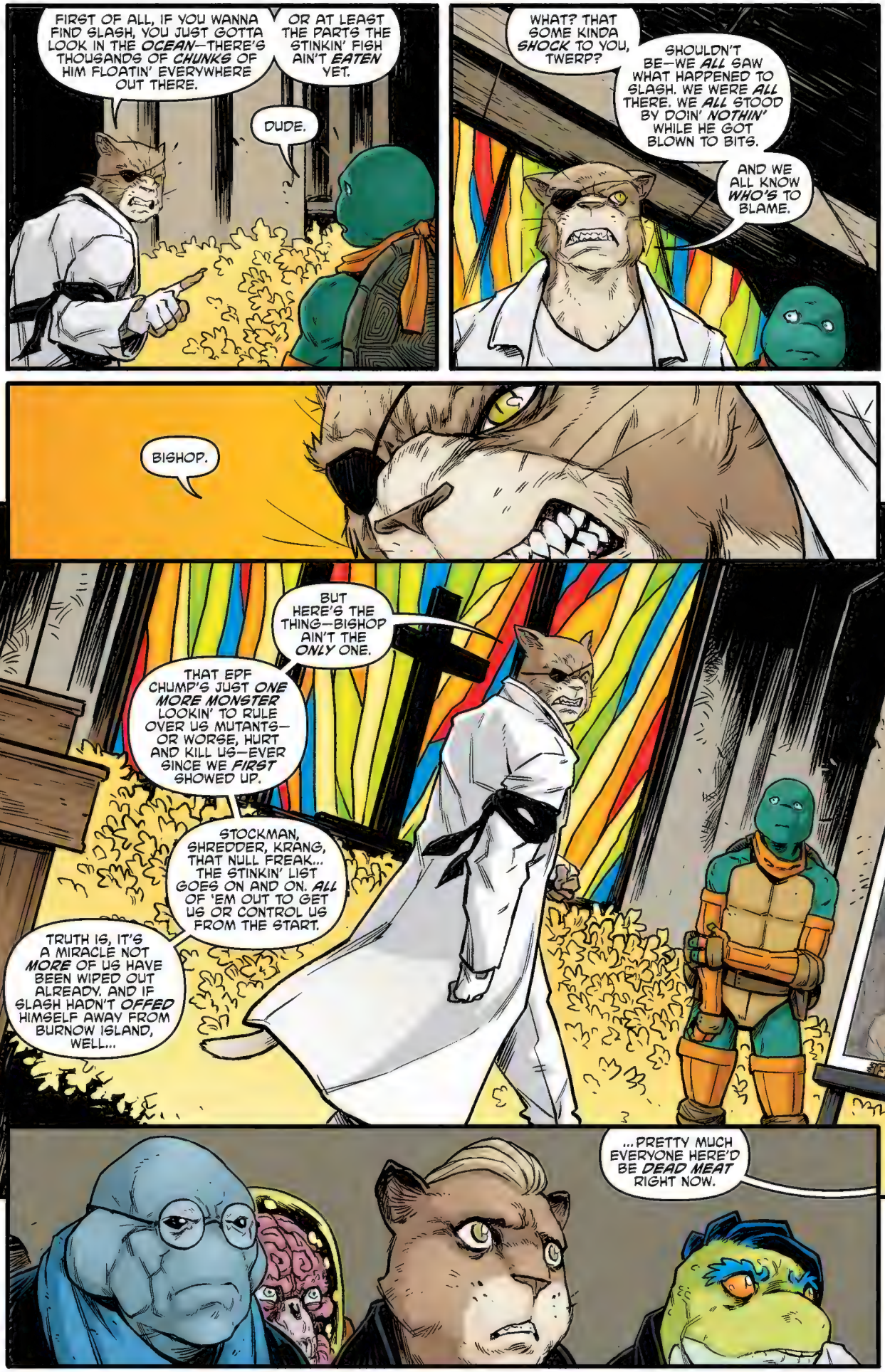
art by MICHAEL DIALYNAS

ISSUE #30

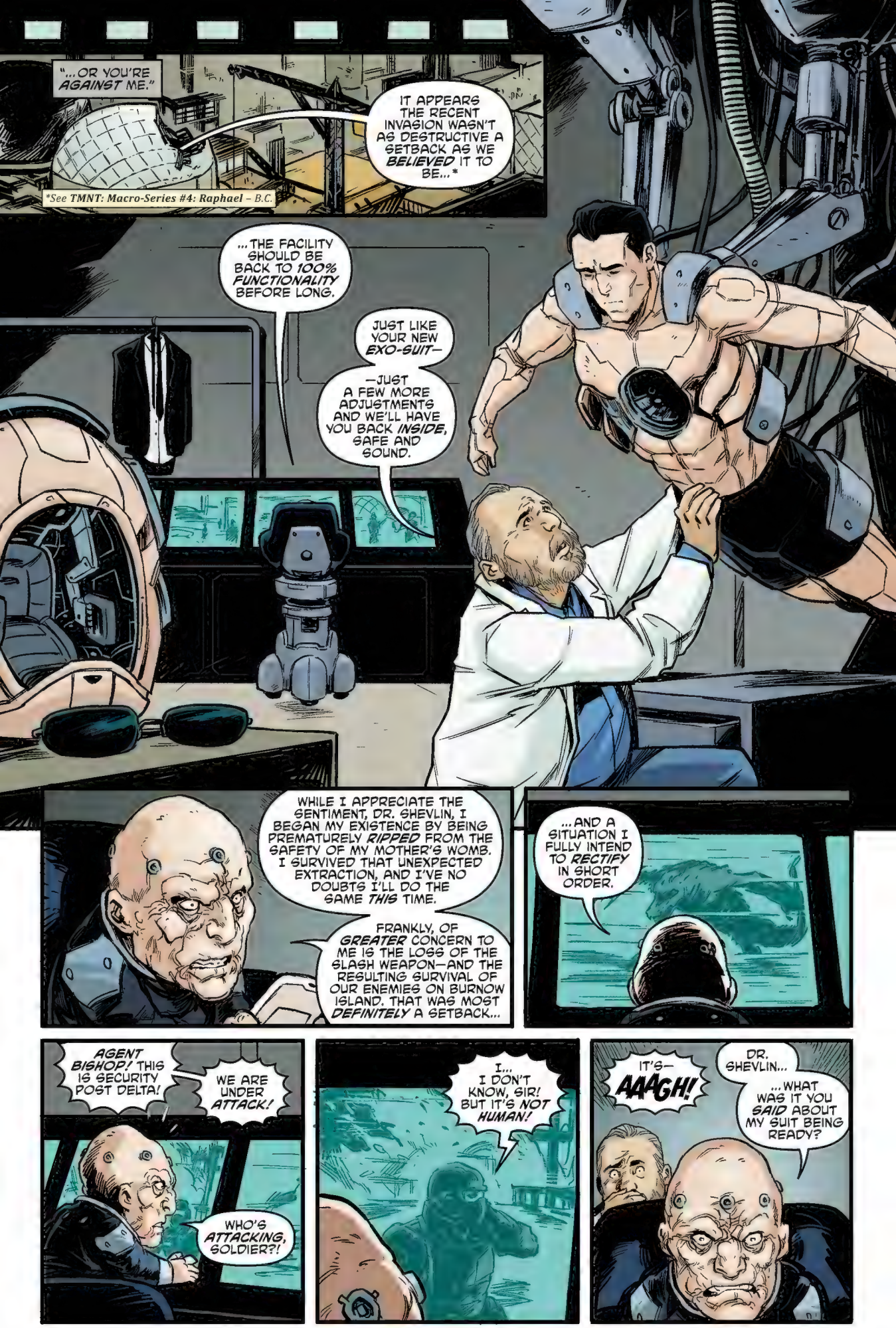
"SLASH TRIED TO KILL US ONCE..."
...RIGHT INSIDE THIS BUILDING, THE FIRST TIME WE EVER MET HIM.
I MEAN, IT WASN'T REALLY HIS FAULT—HE WAS KINDA MIXED UP FROM ALL THE BAD STUFF THAT HAPPENED TO HIM WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE TURTLE AT STOCKGEN.
BUT EVEN THEN, WHEN HE WAS TRYING TO SMASH US, YOU COULD TELL THE BIG GUY WAS REALLY JUST A BIG TEDDY BEAR DEEP DOWN INSIDE. SOMEHOW YOU JUST KNEW ALL THAT THAT THICK ARMOR AND THOSE SHARP EDGES HID A GOOD SOUL.
AND LUCKY FOR ALL OF US, EVEN THOUGH LEO ACCIDENTALLY STABBED HIM THAT DAY, WE EVENTUALLY GOT TO SEE THE REAL SLASH—AND, LATER, THE SUPER-SMART SLASH—AND HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY COOLER OF A DUDE.
HONESTLY, HE WAS LIKE THE BEST OF ALL OF US, AND HE TOTALLY PROVED IT IN THE END WHEN HE DIED TO SAVE ALL OUR LIVES.
BUT MAYBE IT'S NOT ALL SO BAD. YEAH, SLASH IS DEAD FOR SURE.
BUT IS HE REALLY GONE?

ONCE, A REALLY LONG TIME AGO, SHREDDER KILLED ME AND MY BROTHERS. OUR PARENTS, TOO.
BUT, EVEN THOUGH SHREDDER DID WHAT HE DID, ME AND MY BROS AND OUR DAD ARE ALL STILL HERE, ALIVE AND KICKING.
AND THE ONLY REASON OUR MOM'S NOT WITH US IS BECAUSE SHE GOT TO GO LIVE IN A SUPER-AMAZING GARDEN IN HEAVEN—WHICH IS SO COOL, 'CAUSE SOMETIMES WE GET TO VISIT HER THERE...
...AND IT'S THE BEST.
I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND THERE'S BAD NEWS.
FIRST, WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE CAN GET KILLED—WE'VE ALL SEEN IT. THAT'S THE BAD NEWS.
BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN GET KILLED, YOU'RE NOT GONE FOREVER—YOU JUST GET TO DO NEW THINGS IN DIFFERENT PLACES, LIKE OUR MOM AND US.
AND I'M PRETTY SURE, WHEREVER SLASH IS NOW, IT'S GOT GIANT STACKS OF BOOKS FOR HIM TO READ AND PONDS FULL OF CHOCOLATE FOR HIM TO SWIM IN.
AND I HOPE I GET TO VISIT YOU THERE SOMEDAY, BIG GUY, 'CAUSE I'M TOTALLY GONNA MISS YOU UNTIL I DO.
WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!

YOU *REALLY* THINK YOU'RE GONNA FIND SLASH IN SOME MAGICAL CANDY LAND?
HOW *STUPID* IS THAT?
COME ON, HOB. THIS ISN'T THE *TIME* FOR THIS.
BULL! THIS IS *EXACTLY* THE TIME FOR THIS, SALLY.
SLASH WAS MY FRIEND MORE THAN *ANYONE ELSE'S*, AND I'M GONNA HAVE MY DAMN SAY.

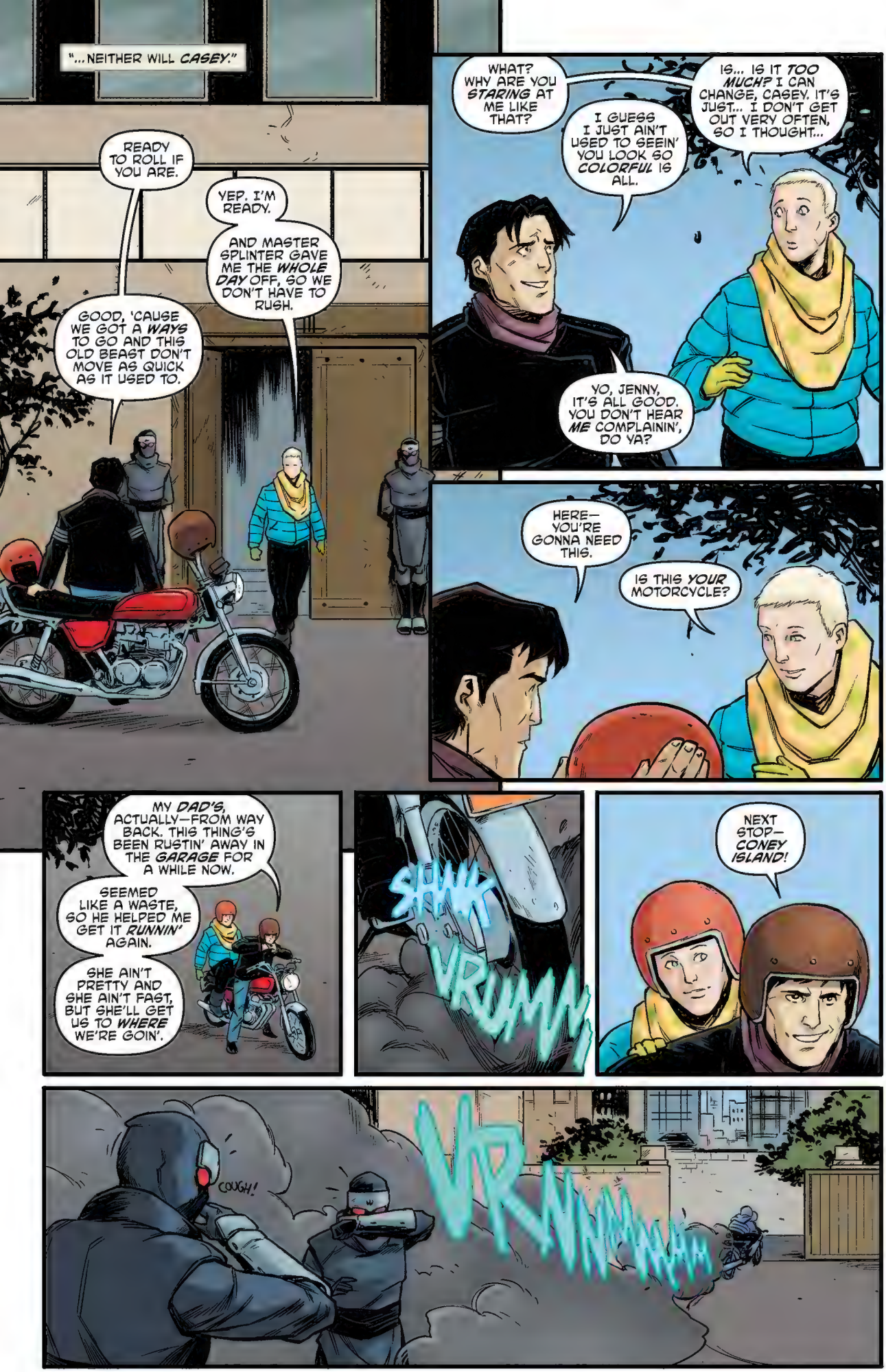

FIRST OF ALL, IF YOU WANNA FIND SLASH, YOU JUST GOTTA LOOK IN THE OCEAN—THERE'S THOUSANDS OF CHUNKS OF HIM FLOATIN' EVERYWHERE OUT THERE.
OR AT LEAST THE PARTS THE STINKIN' FISH AIN'T EATEN YET.
DUDE.
WHAT? THAT SOME KINDA SHOCK TO YOU, TWERP?
SHOULDN'T BE—WE ALL SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO SLASH. WE WERE ALL THERE. WE ALL STOOD BY DOIN' NOTHIN' WHILE HE GOT BLOWN TO BITS.
AND WE ALL KNOW WHO'S TO BLAME.
BISHOP.
BUT HERE'S THE THING—BISHOP AIN'T THE ONLY ONE.
THAT EPF CHUMP'S JUST ONE MORE MONSTER LOOKIN' TO RULE OVER US MUTANTS—OR WORSE, HURT AND KILL US—EVER SINCE WE FIRST SHOWED UP.
STOCKMAN, SHREDDER, KRANG, THAT NULL FREAK... THE STINKIN' LIST GOES ON AND ON. ALL OF 'EM OUT TO GET US OR CONTROL US FROM THE START.
TRUTH IS, IT'S A MIRACLE NOT MORE OF US HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT ALREADY. AND IF SLASH HADN'T OFFED HIMSELF AWAY FROM BURNOW ISLAND, WELL...
...PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE HERE'D BE DEAD MEAT RIGHT NOW.

BUT YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKIN'. SLASH WASN'T THE *ONLY ONE* WHO DID US ALL A FAVOR THAT DAY—*BISHOP* DID, TOO.
I MEAN, A FREAKIN' NUCLEAR BOMB? TALK ABOUT TAKIN' THINGS TO THE *NEXT LEVEL*—DAMN.
HE WAS IN IT TO WIN *ALL THE WAY*, USIN' *EVERY* WEAPON AT HIS DISPOSAL TO WASTE HIS ENEMIES. NO HOLDS BARRED.
BUT WHAT THAT PSYCHO DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS ONE OF OUR KIND FINALLY HAVIN' THE *GUTS* TO MAKE A COMMAND DECISION TO *STOP* HIM FROM BEATIN' US.
INSTEAD OF JUST GIVIN' IN, SLASH TOOK CHARGE AND DID WHAT *HAD* TO BE DONE.
SO, YEAH, BISHOP SHOWED US WHAT IT *TAKES* TO WIN THIS WAR... BUT SLASH SHOWED US *TWO* CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME.
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE BIG FELLA FINALLY GOT IT THROUGH HIS THICK SKULL WHAT *I* BEEN SAYIN' ALL ALONG—
—THIS IS *US AGAINST THEM*. CUT AND DRIED.
AND BY US, I DON'T *JUST* MEAN MUTANTS. I AIN'T BLIND—WE GOT *HUMANS* HERE HELPIN' US... AND *MORE* OUT IN THE WORLD, TOO. JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR *ENEMIES*, I GUESS YOU CAN'T ALWAYS PICK YOUR *FRIENDS*.
AND, BESIDES, LIKE I JUST SAID, YOU GOTTA USE *EVERYTHING* IN YOUR ARSENAL IF YOU PLAN ON COMIN' OUT ON TOP, AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I PLAN ON DOIN'.
I GOT THE WEAPONS, I GOT THE SCIENCE AND THE TECH, AND NOW, THANKS TO BISHOP AND SLASH, I GOT THE *MOTIVATION* I NEED TO SEE THIS THROUGH ALL THE WAY.
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY—I'M GONNA TAKE THE WAR *TO* THEM NOW, NO HOLDS BARRED.
AND WHETHER YOU'RE A MUTANT, HUMAN, ALIEN—OR WHATEVER THE HELL ELSE THERE IS—YOU'RE EITHER *WITH* ME...


"...OR YOU'RE AGAINST ME."
IT APPEARS THE RECENT INVASION WASN'T AS DESTRUCTIVE A SETBACK AS WE BELIEVED IT TO BE...*
*See TMNT: Macro-Series #4: Raphael – B.C.
...THE FACILITY SHOULD BE BACK TO 100% FUNCTIONALITY BEFORE LONG.
JUST LIKE YOUR NEW EXO-SUIT—
—JUST A FEW MORE ADJUSTMENTS AND WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK INSIDE, SAFE AND SOUND.
WHILE I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT, DR. SHEVLIN, I BEGAN MY EXISTENCE BY BEING PREMATURELY RIPPED FROM THE SAFETY OF MY MOTHER'S WOMB. I SURVIVED THAT UNEXPECTED EXTRACTION, AND I'VE NO DOUBTS I'LL DO THE SAME THIS TIME.
FRANKLY, OF GREATER CONCERN TO ME IS THE LOSS OF THE SLASH WEAPON—AND THE RESULTING SURVIVAL OF OUR ENEMIES ON BURNOW ISLAND. THAT WAS MOST DEFINITELY A SETBACK...
...AND A SITUATION I FULLY INTEND TO RECTIFY IN SHORT ORDER.
AGENT BISHOP! THIS IS SECURITY POST DELTA!
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
WHO'S ATTACKING, SOLDIER?!
I... I DON'T KNOW, SIR! BUT IT'S NOT HUMAN!
IT'S—
AAAGH!
DR. SHEVLIN...
...WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID ABOUT MY SUIT BEING READY?

WELL, HERE WE ARE.
THAT DIDN'T TAKE QUITE AS LONG AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD.
CECOND TIME AROUND
NOPE. QUICK AND EASY.
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HELPING ME MOVE MY STUFF INTO THE NEW APARTMENT.
I REALLY DO APPRECIATE IT, MOM AND DAD.
OUR PLEASURE, KIDDO.
BESIDES, IT WASN'T A LOT OF STUFF—YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT SOME SPACE TO FILL IN THAT PLACE.
YEAH, I KNOW. I'LL ADD THAT TO MY TO-DO LIST—I THINK I'M UP TO NUMBER 956 AT THIS POINT.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WORKING TOO MUCH, SWEETIE. YOU KEEP BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS LIKE YOU ARE, YOU'RE BOUND TO BURN OUT.
YOUR MOM'S RIGHT. YOU REALLY DO NEED TO CARVE OUT SOME "ME TIME" ONCE IN A WHILE, APRIL.
I'VE BEEN TRYING, DAD. I SWEAR.
I REALLY WANTED TO GO TO POOR SLASH'S WAKE TODAY, BUT BETWEEN MY JOB AT TCRI AND HELPING DR. STOCKMAN WITH HIS MAYORAL CANDIDACY, THIS WAS THE ONLY DAY I COULD SPARE FOR MOVING.
AND I GOT TO HANG WITH YOU GUYS FOR A LITTLE BIT, WHICH IS A NICE PLUS.
WELL, ANOTHER DEFINITE PLUS IS THAT HEFTY SALARY BAXTER'S PAYING YOU.
THERE'S NO WAY YOUR MOM AND I COULD'VE EVEN SNIFFED AN APARTMENT THAT NICE WHEN WE WERE YOUR AGE.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
HELLO, DR. STOCKMAN.
MISS O'NEIL...

...I'VE JUST NOW STOPPED BY YOUR OFFICE AND FOUND IT *VACANT*. ARE YOU NOT PLANNING ON COMING INTO WORK TODAY?
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE RECENT *MOUSER ENHANCEMENTS*, AS WELL AS GO OVER PREPARATIONS FOR MY UPCOMING *CANDIDATES' DEBATE*. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
NO, DOCTOR, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN *ANYTHING*...
...I JUST HAD SOME PERSONAL ERRANDS TO RUN, BUT THEY'RE DONE NOW.
I'LL GET THERE AS *SOON* AS I CAN.
GOOD. SEE THAT YOU DO.
KLIK
SO, YOUNG LADY—WHAT IS IT YOU GET UP TO WHEN I'M *AWAY* FROM THE OFFICE, *HM*?
"DO YOU THINK HE *SUSPECTS*?"
THAT I'M *SPYING* ON HIM FOR THE TURTLES? NO, I DON'T THINK SO, DAD.
AS SWAMPED AS I AM, DOCTOR STOCKMAN'S *TWICE* AS BUSY RUNNING THE COMPANY AND RUNNING FOR MAYOR AT THE SAME TIME.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I REALLY GOTTA GET *RUNNING* MYSELF.
THANKS AGAIN FOR *EVERYTHING*. I LOVE YOU GUYS.
LOVE YOU *MORE*, KIDDO.
DITTO.
WELL, OUR BABY'S *MOVING UP* IN THE BIG CITY.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST YOU AND ME AGAIN, HON.
YEP. GUESS WE CAN TURN THAT SPARE ROOM INTO THE WRITING OFFICE YOU'VE BEEN WANTING, BETH—*SHE* WON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL...


"...NEITHER WILL CASEY."
READY TO ROLL IF YOU ARE.
YEP. I'M READY.
AND MASTER SPLINTER GAVE ME THE WHOLE DAY OFF, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO RUSH.
GOOD, 'CAUSE WE GOT A WAYS TO GO AND THIS OLD BEAST DON'T MOVE AS QUICK AS IT USED TO.
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I GUESS I JUST AIN'T USED TO SEEIN' YOU LOOK SO COLORFUL IS ALL.
IS... IS IT TOO MUCH? I CAN CHANGE, CASEY. IT'S JUST... I DON'T GET OUT VERY OFTEN, SO I THOUGHT...
YO, JENNY, IT'S ALL GOOD. YOU DON'T HEAR ME COMPLAININ', DO YA?
HERE— YOU'RE GONNA NEED THIS.
IS THIS YOUR MOTORCYCLE?
MY DAD'S, ACTUALLY—FROM WAY BACK. THIS THING'S BEEN RUSTIN' AWAY IN THE GARAGE FOR A WHILE NOW.
SEEMED LIKE A WASTE, SO HE HELPED ME GET IT RUNNIN' AGAIN.
SHE AIN'T PRETTY AND SHE AIN'T FAST, BUT SHE'LL GET US TO WHERE WE'RE GOIN'.
SHAAK
VRUMM
NEXT STOP— CONEY ISLAND!
COUGH!
VRNNNNNNN

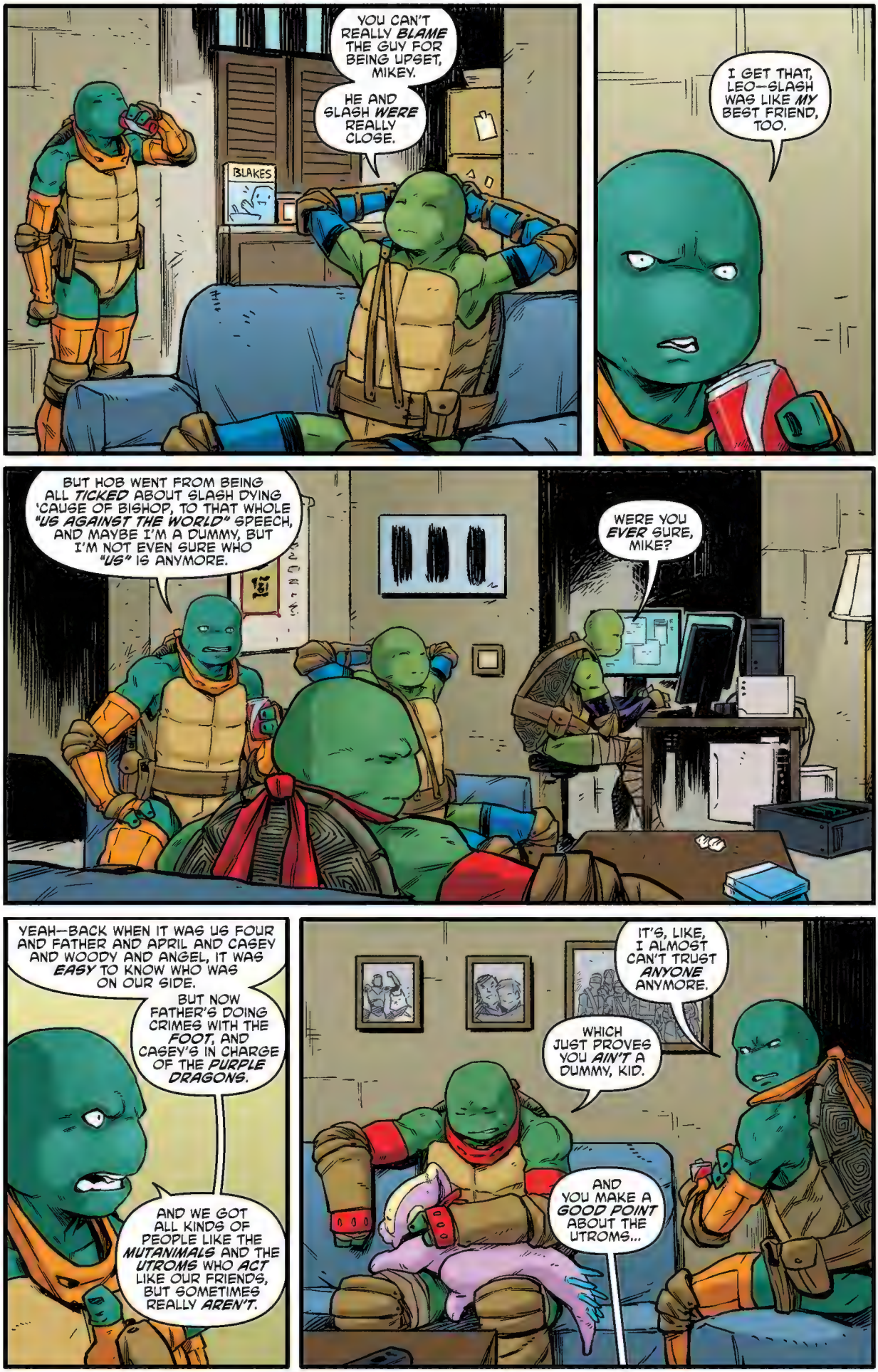
SMOKE!
FSSH!
WHERE IS IT?!
THERE!
TAKE IT OUT!
BUDDA BUDDABU
FZAK
GYAH!

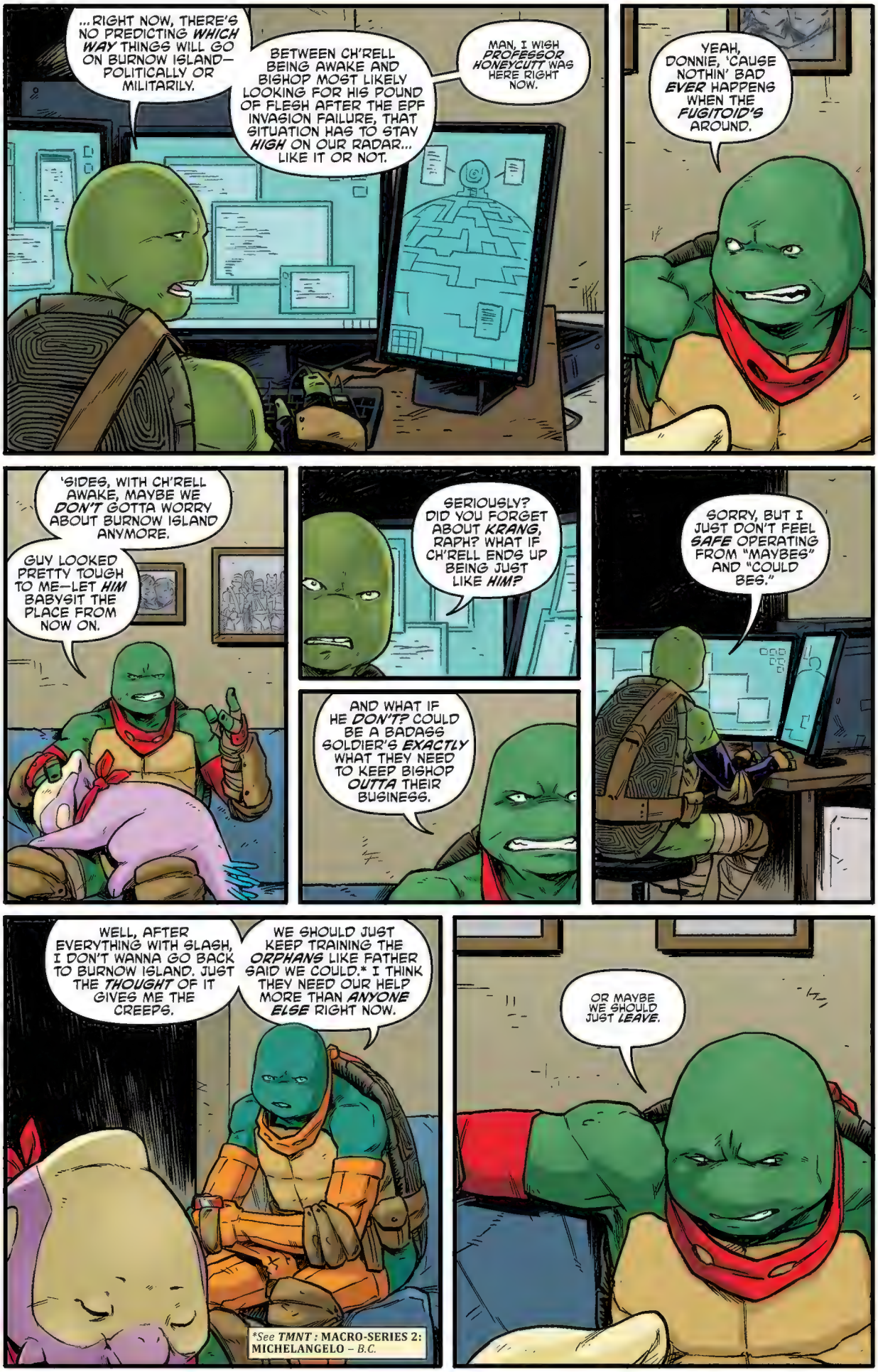
WHUD!
IT'S TOO FAS—
IT'S HEADING TOWARD THE LABS!
DO NOT LET IT PASS!
BA-DOOM
"DR. SHEVLIN, YOU MIGHT WANT TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE..."
...BECAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.

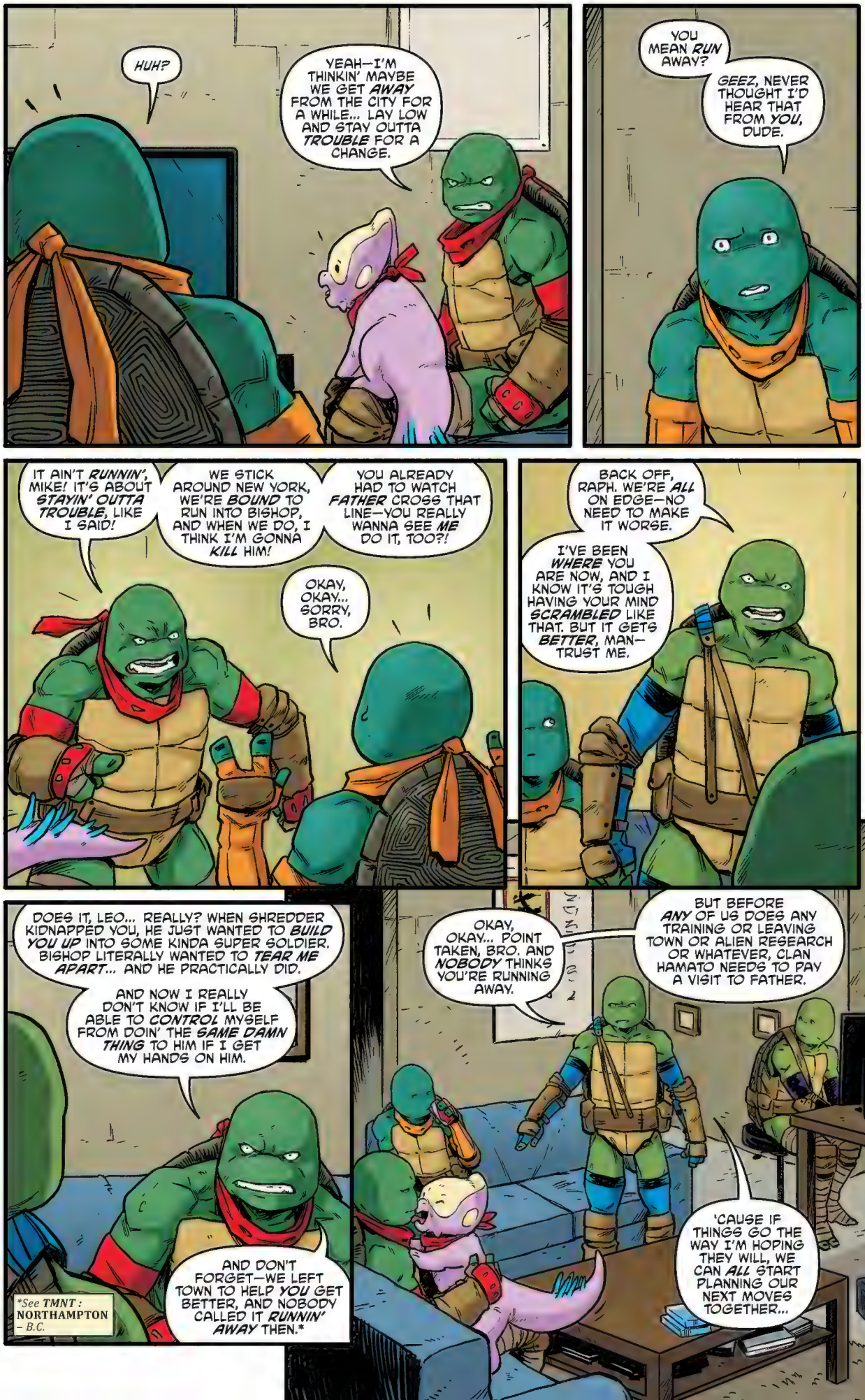
FWAM!
HELLO, AGENT BISHOP.
YOU KNOW MY NAME. INTERESTING. AND *YOU* ARE?
MY NAME IS **METALHEAD**...

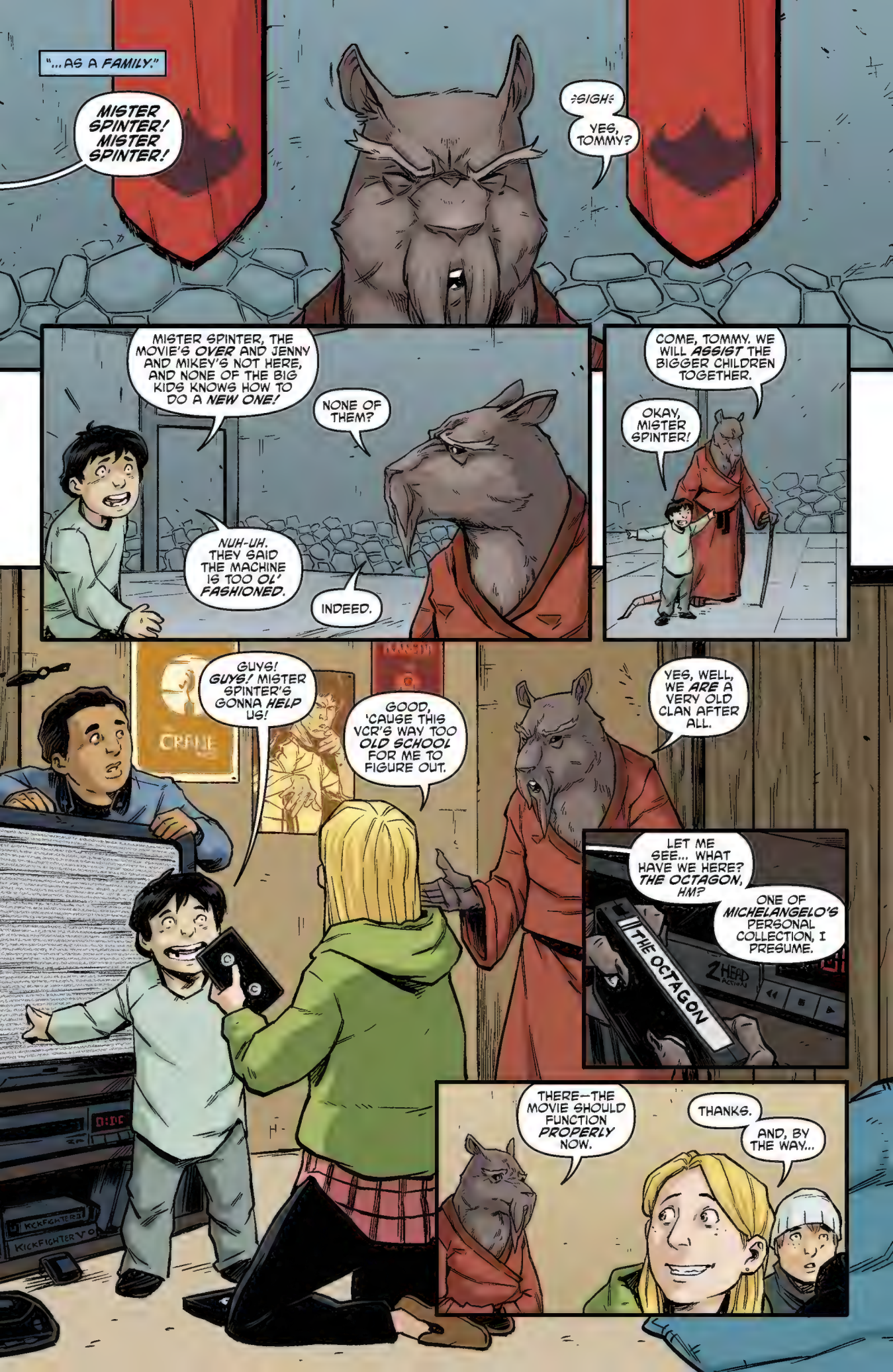
...AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME.
IS THAT SO?
YES. FOR THE MOMENT.
AND WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?
BECAUSE, DESPITE THE CARNAGE OUTSIDE, I DID NOT COME HERE SEEKING CONFLICT.
I'VE COME TO PROPOSE A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ALLIANCE.

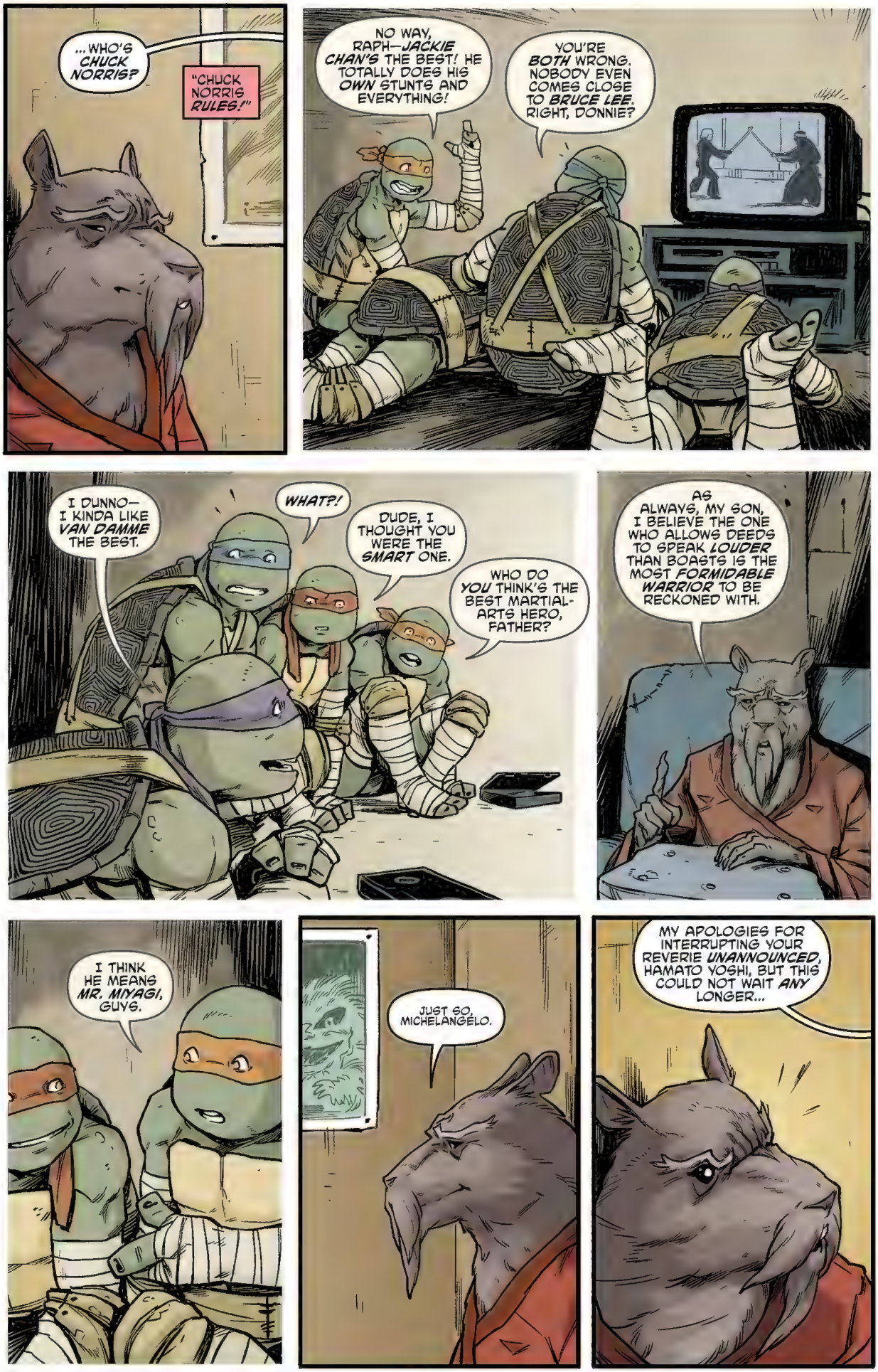
WHAT THE *HECK* WAS HIS DEAL?
SLASH'S MEMORIAL WAS GOING *TOTALLY* GREAT, AND THEN HOB HAD TO BARGE IN AND *RUIN* IT WITH ALL THAT WAR AND ARMIES TALK.
武士道
I'M GETTING SO SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT THAT STUFF *ALL* THE TIME.
SKSHH!
NEED BANANAS


YOU CAN'T REALLY BLAME THE GUY FOR BEING UPSET, MIKEY.
HE AND SLASH WERE REALLY CLOSE.
BLAKES
I GET THAT, LEO—SLASH WAS LIKE MY BEST FRIEND, TOO.
BUT HOB WENT FROM BEING ALL TICKED ABOUT SLASH DYING 'CAUSE OF BISHOP, TO THAT WHOLE "US AGAINST THE WORLD" SPEECH, AND MAYBE I'M A DUMMY, BUT I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHO "US" IS ANYMORE.
WERE YOU EVER SURE, MIKE?
YEAH—BACK WHEN IT WAS US FOUR AND FATHER AND APRIL AND CASEY AND WOODY AND ANGEL, IT WAS EASY TO KNOW WHO WAS ON OUR SIDE.
BUT NOW FATHER'S DOING CRIMES WITH THE FOOT, AND CASEY'S IN CHARGE OF THE PURPLE DRAGONS.
AND WE GOT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE LIKE THE MUTANIMALS AND THE UTROMS WHO ACT LIKE OUR FRIENDS, BUT SOMETIMES REALLY AREN'T.
IT'S, LIKE, I ALMOST CAN'T TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE.
WHICH JUST PROVES YOU AIN'T A DUMMY, KID.
AND YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT ABOUT THE UTROMS...


...RIGHT NOW, THERE'S NO PREDICTING WHICH WAY THINGS WILL GO ON BURNOW ISLAND—POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY.
BETWEEN CH'RELL BEING AWAKE AND BISHOP MOST LIKELY LOOKING FOR HIS POUND OF FLESH AFTER THE EPF INVASION FAILURE, THAT SITUATION HAS TO STAY HIGH ON OUR RADAR... LIKE IT OR NOT.
MAN, I WISH PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT WAS HERE RIGHT NOW.
YEAH, DONNIE, 'CAUSE NOTHIN' BAD EVER HAPPENS WHEN THE FUGITOID'S AROUND.
'SIDES, WITH CH'RELL AWAKE, MAYBE WE DON'T GOTTA WORRY ABOUT BURNOW ISLAND ANYMORE.
GUY LOOKED PRETTY TOUGH TO ME—LET HIM BABYSIT THE PLACE FROM NOW ON.
SERIOUSLY? DID YOU FORGET ABOUT KRANG, RAPH? WHAT IF CH'RELL ENDS UP BEING JUST LIKE HIM?
AND WHAT IF HE DON'T? COULD BE A BADASS SOLDIER'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY NEED TO KEEP BISHOP OUTTA THEIR BUSINESS.
SORRY, BUT I JUST DON'T FEEL SAFE OPERATING FROM "MAYBES" AND "COULD BES."
WELL, AFTER EVERYTHING WITH SLASH, I DON'T WANNA GO BACK TO BURNOW ISLAND. JUST THE THOUGHT OF IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
WE SHOULD JUST KEEP TRAINING THE ORPHANS LIKE FATHER SAID WE COULD.* I THINK THEY NEED OUR HELP MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE RIGHT NOW.
*See TMNT: MACRO-SERIES 2: MICHELANGELO – B.C.
OR MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE.


HUH?
YEAH—I'M THINKIN' MAYBE WE GET *AWAY* FROM THE CITY FOR A WHILE... LAY LOW AND STAY OUTTA *TROUBLE* FOR A CHANGE.
YOU MEAN *RUN* AWAY?
GEEZ, NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THAT FROM *YOU*, DUDE.
IT AIN'T *RUNNIN'*, MIKE! IT'S ABOUT *STAYIN' OUTTA TROUBLE*, LIKE I SAID!
WE STICK AROUND NEW YORK, WE'RE *BOUND* TO RUN INTO BISHOP, AND WHEN WE DO, I THINK I'M GONNA *KILL* HIM!
YOU ALREADY HAD TO WATCH *FATHER* CROSS THAT LINE—YOU REALLY WANNA SEE *ME* DO IT, TOO?!
OKAY, OKAY... SORRY, BRO.
BACK OFF, RAPH. WE'RE *ALL* ON EDGE—NO NEED TO MAKE IT WORSE.
I'VE BEEN *WHERE* YOU ARE NOW, AND I KNOW IT'S TOUGH HAVING YOUR MIND *SCRAMBLED* LIKE THAT. BUT IT GETS *BETTER*, MAN—TRUST ME.
DOES IT, LEO... REALLY? WHEN SHREDDER KIDNAPPED YOU, HE JUST WANTED TO *BUILD YOU UP* INTO SOME KINDA SUPER SOLDIER. BISHOP LITERALLY WANTED TO *TEAR ME APART*... AND HE PRACTICALLY DID.
AND NOW I REALLY DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO *CONTROL* MYSELF FROM DOIN' THE *SAME DAMN THING* TO HIM IF I GET MY HANDS ON HIM.
AND DON'T FORGET—WE LEFT TOWN TO HELP *YOU* GET BETTER, AND NOBODY CALLED IT *RUNNIN' AWAY* THEN.*
*See TMNT: NORTHAMPTON – B.C.
OKAY, OKAY... POINT TAKEN, BRO. AND *NOBODY* THINKS YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY.
BUT BEFORE *ANY* OF US DOES ANY TRAINING OR LEAVING TOWN OR ALIEN RESEARCH OR WHATEVER, CLAN HAMATO NEEDS TO PAY A VISIT TO FATHER.
'CAUSE IF THINGS GO THE WAY I'M HOPING THEY WILL, WE CAN *ALL* START PLANNING OUR NEXT MOVES TOGETHER...


"...AS A FAMILY."
MISTER SPINTER! MISTER SPINTER!
:SIGH:
YES, TOMMY?
MISTER SPINTER, THE MOVIE'S OVER AND JENNY AND MIKEY'S NOT HERE, AND NONE OF THE BIG KIDS KNOWS HOW TO DO A NEW ONE!
NONE OF THEM?
NUH-UH. THEY SAID THE MACHINE IS TOO OL' FASHIONED.
INDEED.
COME, TOMMY. WE WILL ASSIST THE BIGGER CHILDREN TOGETHER.
OKAY, MISTER SPINTER!
GUYS! GUYS! MISTER SPINTER'S GONNA HELP US!
GOOD, 'CAUSE THIS VCR'S WAY TOO OLD SCHOOL FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT.
YES, WELL, WE ARE A VERY OLD CLAN AFTER ALL.
LET ME SEE... WHAT HAVE WE HERE? THE OCTAGON, HM?
ONE OF MICHELANGELO'S PERSONAL COLLECTION, I PRESUME.
THE OCTAGON
2 HEAD ACTION
THERE—THE MOVIE SHOULD FUNCTION PROPERLY NOW.
THANKS.
AND, BY THE WAY...


...WHO'S CHUCK NORRIS?
"CHUCK NORRIS RULES!"
NO WAY, RAPH—JACKIE CHAN'S THE BEST! HE TOTALLY DOES HIS OWN STUNTS AND EVERYTHING!
YOU'RE BOTH WRONG. NOBODY EVEN COMES CLOSE TO BRUCE LEE. RIGHT, DONNIE?
I DUNNO— I KINDA LIKE VAN DAMME THE BEST.
WHAT?!
DUDE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SMART ONE.
WHO DO YOU THINK'S THE BEST MARTIAL-ARTS HERO, FATHER?
AS ALWAYS, MY SON, I BELIEVE THE ONE WHO ALLOWS DEEDS TO SPEAK LOUDER THAN BOASTS IS THE MOST FORMIDABLE WARRIOR TO BE RECKONED WITH.
I THINK HE MEANS MR. MIYAGI, GUYS.
JUST SO, MICHELANGELO.
MY APOLOGIES FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR REVERIE UNANNOUNCED, HAMATO YOSHI, BUT THIS COULD NOT WAIT ANY LONGER...

...I HAVE RETURNED TO RECLAIM WHAT IS *RIGHTFULLY* MINE.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by MICHAEL DIALYNAS

ISSUE #91

BEFORE.
OROKU KARAI...
AWAKEN...
I HAVE COME BEARING COUNSEL...
AWAKEN, CHILD...
NNNGG...
AWAKE!
GUH!
SCHPPP!

KITSUNE!
HELLO, GRANDDAUGHTER.
WHY... WHY ARE YOU HERE? HOW—
THE "HOW" IS UNIMPORTANT. THE "WHY" I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN—
—I BRING YOU MUCH-NEEDED GUIDANCE.
GUIDANCE? WHAT GUIDANCE?
HEAR ME NOW. YOU HAVE COME TO RECLAIM WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOURS BY RIGHTS.
YET YOU SEEK TO NEGOTIATE—TO GIVE AND TO TAKE WHEN ONLY THE LATTER NEED SUFFICE.
THE FOOT CLAN BELONGS TO YOU, OROKU KARAI.
TO COMPROMISE WITH THE IMPOSTER WHO SO IMPOTENTLY HOLDS ITS POWERS NOW IS AN INSULT TO YOUR LINEAGE.
IMPOSTER? HAMATO YOSHI? NO... YOU'RE WRONG, GRANDMOTHER. HIS RULERSHIP WAS ATTAINED HONORABLY, THROUGH FAIR COMBAT. IN THE GAUNTLET.*
MASTER SHREDDER WILLINGLY ACCEPTED HAMATO YOSHI'S WARRIOR CHALLENGE AND HE WAS DEFEATED.
THERE WAS NO DISHONOR IN YOSHI'S RISE... NOR IN MY GRANDFATHER'S DEATH.
*See TMNT #50 – B.C.
PERHAPS NOT. BUT WHAT HAS FOLLOWED THOSE CALAMITOUS EVENTS HAS BEEN BOTH DISHONORABLE AND DESPICABLE.
YOSHI TOOK YOUR GRANDFATHER'S HEAD THAT DAY, AND NOW HE "HONORS" SAKI BY KEEPING IT AS A PERVERTED SPOIL OF WAR. A DARK TROPHY FOR A HOLLOW VICTORY.
AND ALL THE WHILE, THE FOOT CLAN GROWS WEAKER.

AND YET, HAMATO YOSHI IS NOT THE ONLY ONE IN POSSESSION OF DARK TROPHIES, IS HE?
OH, THIS?
THIS IS THE KIRA NO KEN.
YES—I KNOW, CHILD. "THE SWORD OF HATE." AN ACCURSED GIFT FROM THE GODS—A MIGHTY WEAPON AS BEAUTIFUL AS IT IS DEADLY.
MUCH LIKE SHE WHO NOW WIELDS IT.
THE DRAGON'S BLOOD FLOWS THROUGH YOUR BODY, OROKU KARAI—IT IS WHY YOU, AND NO OTHER, CAN TAME THE KIRA NO KEN'S TERRIBLE CURSE.
IT IS WHY YOU, AND NO OTHER, MUST LEAD THE FOOT CLAN BACK TO GREATNESS... AND BEYOND.
THE TIME HAS COME TO PUT ASIDE ANTIQUATED OATHS AND TRADITIONS AND BECOME THE LIVING SWORD OF HATE YOU WERE ALWAYS DESTINED TO BE.
I... I...
I'M SORRY, GRANDMOTHER, BUT I DON'T AGREE. I'LL ALWAYS BE A WARRIOR FIRST, IT'S TRUE, BUT NEVER BY SACRIFICING MY HONOR.
YES, I WANT TO LEAD THE FOOT CLAN—TO BECOME MASTER OF ALL. AND I BELIEVE HAMATO YOSHI... MASTER SPLINTER WILL STEP ASIDE AND ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN THROUGH JUST AND REASONABLE NEGOTIATIONS.
KLIK!
THEN PARLAY IF YOU MUST, FOOLISH CHILD, BUT BE CERTAIN YOU DO SO FROM A POSITION OF AUTHORITY. FOR POWER IS WHAT YOU SEEK, SO POWER YOU MUST BRING.
AND DO NOT FORGET, AS YOU CONTINUE TO GRIP SO TIGHTLY TO USELESS DECORUM—YOU ARE DEALING WITH A RAT. WITH LOWLY VERMIN.
WHILE YOU...
...YOU ARE A DRAGON.

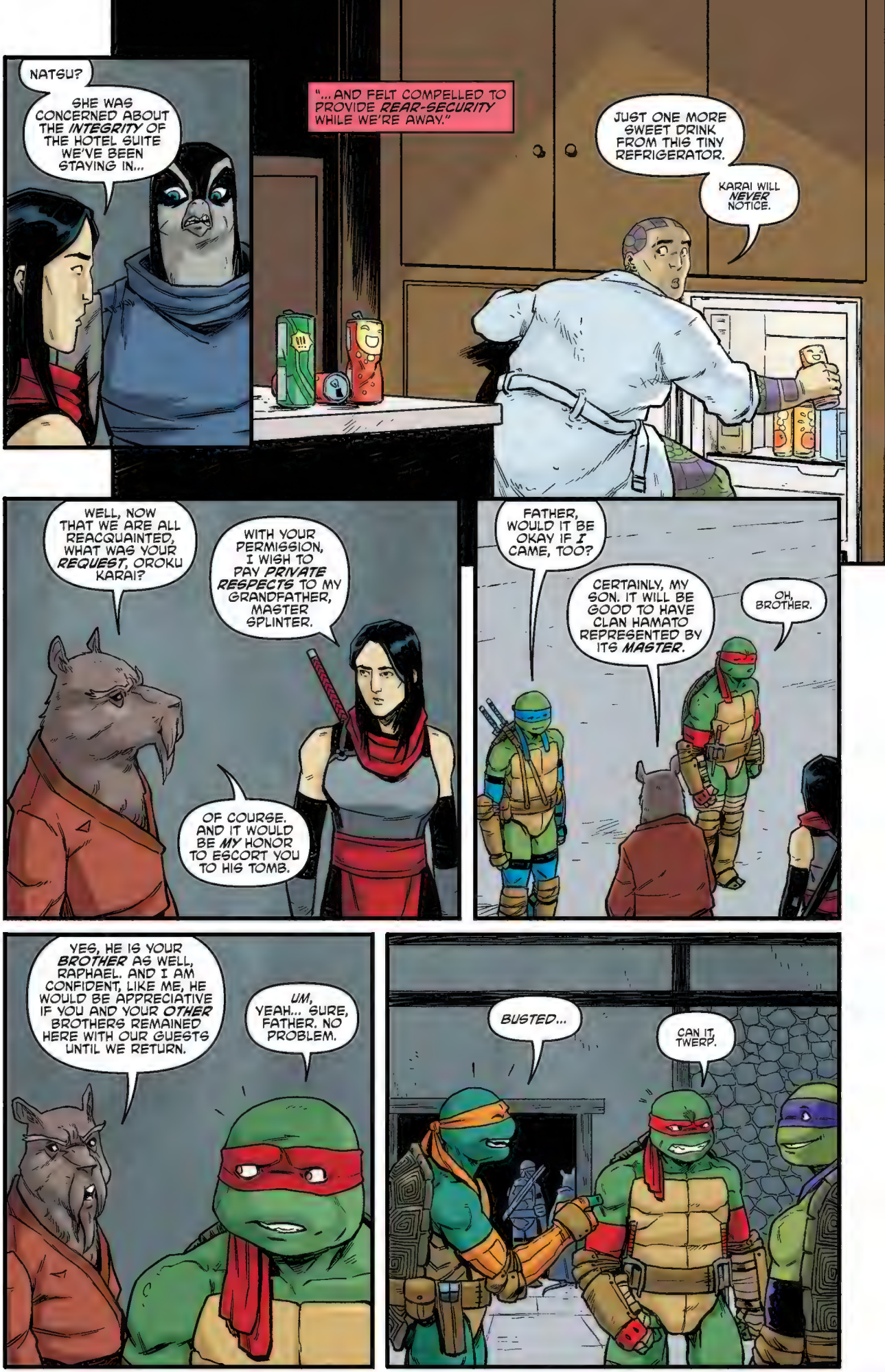
GREETINGS, HAMATO-SAN. IT HAS BEEN *TOO* LONG.

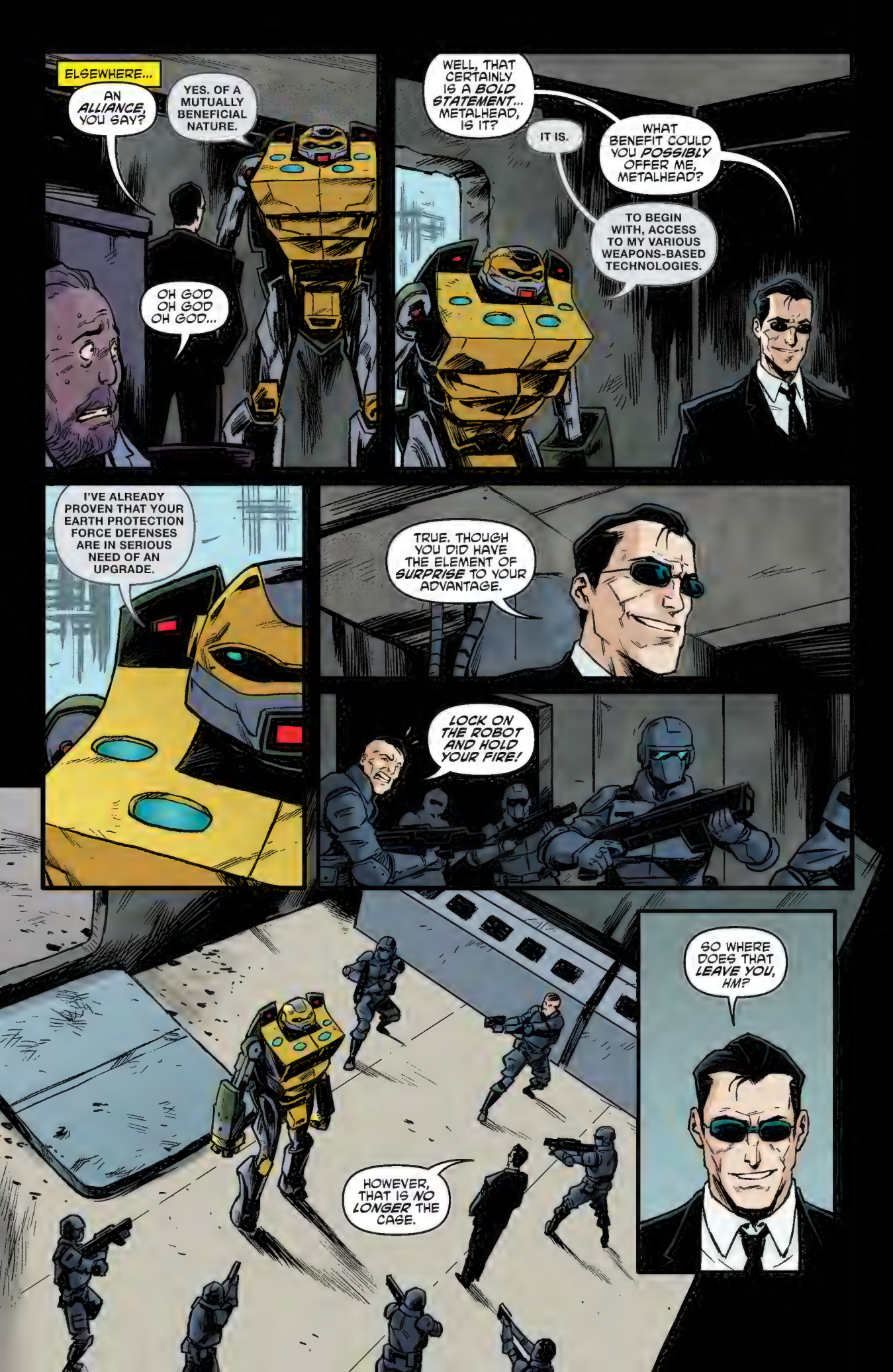
INDEED, IT *HAS*, OROKU KARAI.

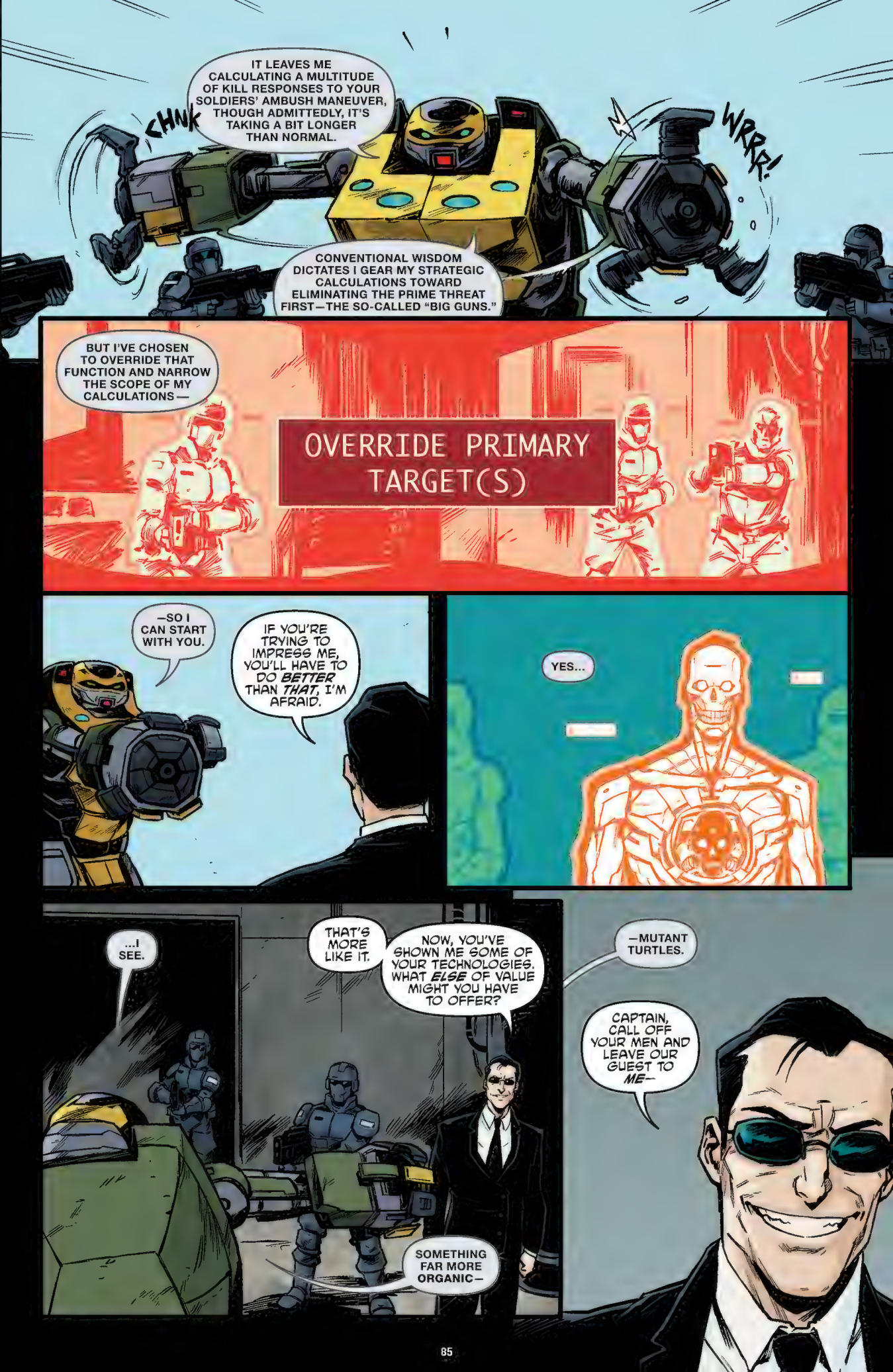
NOW.
WELCOME HOME.

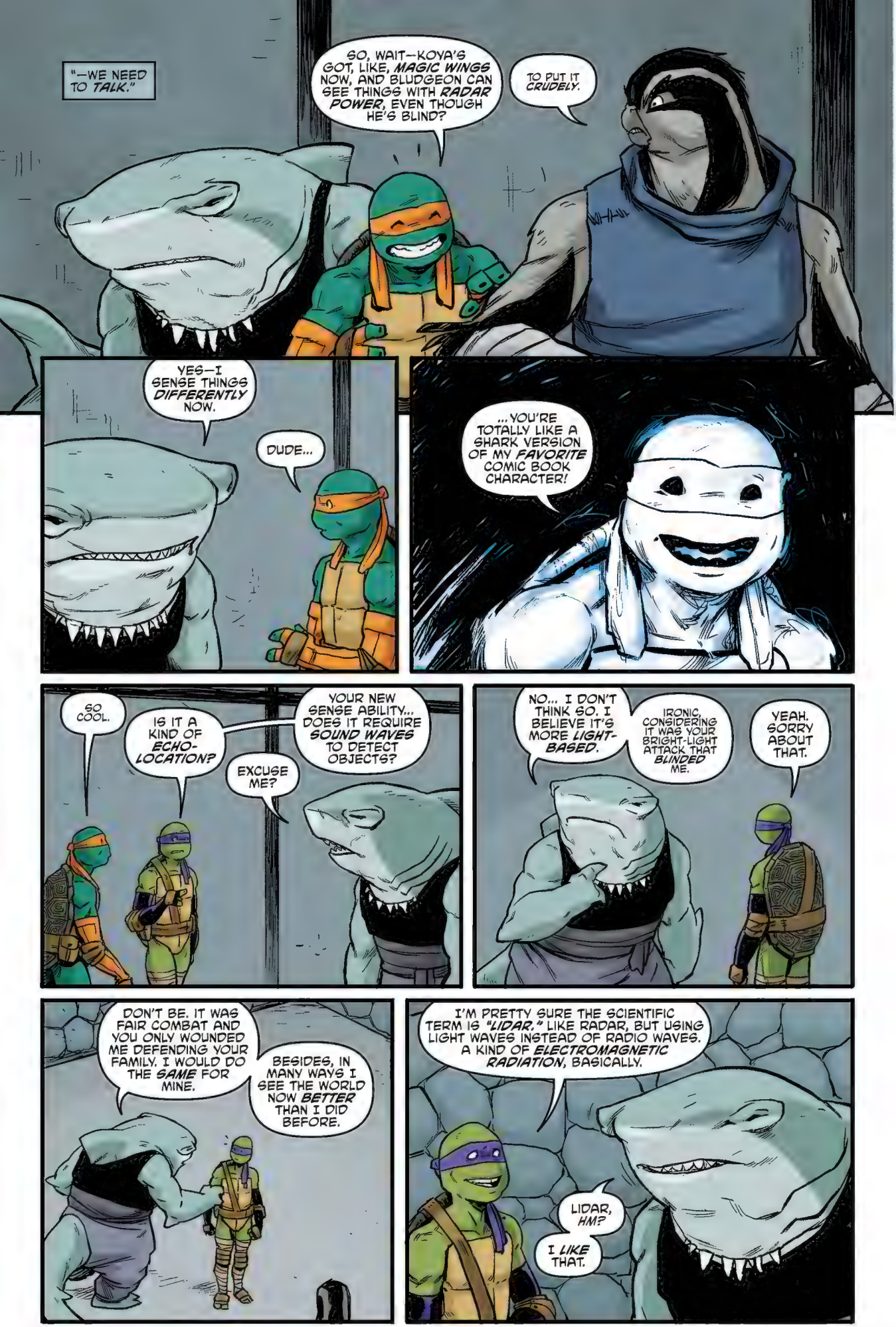
IT CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE HOME. NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED, I SEE.
YES—YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST ONE SURPRISED BY MY CHOICE TO MAINTAIN THESE HEADQUARTERS MUCH THE SAME WAY AS YOUR GRANDFATHER LEFT THEM.
I KEEP THESE ARTIFACTS TO SERVE AS A REMINDER TO ALL THAT THE FOOT CLAN EXISTED LONG BEFORE THERE WAS EVER MASTERS SHREDDER AND SPLINTER.
AND THE CHILDREN?
AH, YES, THE ORPHANS—
—THEY WERE UNEXPECTED ADDITIONS TO THE DECOR. RECENT UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PUT THEM SOLELY IN OUR CARE.
WHOA, SHARK DUDE FEELS LIKE RUBBER. HOW DOPE IS THAT?
LOOK, GUYS—I'M FLYING!
HARDLY.
PLEASE, GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND JOIN ME FOR TEA, OROKU KARAI.
AS YOU WISH, MASTER SPLINTER.
KOYA, PUT THE CHILD DOWN...
...HE IS NOT PREY.
WHEEE!
TRUST ME—MY NOSTRILS ARE WELL AWARE OF THAT.

MASTER SPLINTER, BEFORE WE SHARE TEA, I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT GRANT ME A SMALL, *PERSONAL* REQUEST.
FATHER...
...SORRY FOR THE *INTERRUPTION*. WE WERE TRYING TO GET HERE BEFORE—
BEFORE WE DID?
HELLO AGAIN, CLAN HAMATO.
AGAIN?
YES—YOUR SONS AND WE MET RECENTLY AND ENGAGED IN... *SPIRITED DEBATE.**
THAT'S *ONE WAY* OF PUTTING IT, I GUESS.
HELLO, KARAI.
WHERE'S THE TATTOOED LADY?
*See TMNT: MACRO-SERIES: LEONARDO – B.C.


NATSU?
SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE *INTEGRITY* OF THE HOTEL SUITE WE'VE BEEN STAYING IN...
"...AND FELT COMPELLED TO PROVIDE *REAR-SECURITY* WHILE WE'RE AWAY."
JUST ONE MORE SWEET DRINK FROM THIS TINY REFRIGERATOR.
KARAI WILL *NEVER* NOTICE.
WELL, NOW THAT WE ARE ALL REACQUAINTED, WHAT WAS YOUR *REQUEST*, OROKU KARAI?
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WISH TO PAY *PRIVATE RESPECTS* TO MY GRANDFATHER, MASTER SPLINTER.
OF COURSE. AND IT WOULD BE *MY* HONOR TO ESCORT YOU TO HIS TOMB.
FATHER, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF *I* CAME, TOO?
CERTAINLY, MY SON. IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE CLAN HAMATO REPRESENTED BY ITS *MASTER*.
OH, BROTHER.
YES, HE IS YOUR *BROTHER* AS WELL, RAPHAEL. AND I AM CONFIDENT, LIKE ME, HE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF YOU AND YOUR *OTHER* BROTHERS REMAINED HERE WITH OUR GUESTS UNTIL WE RETURN.
UM, YEAH... SURE, FATHER. NO PROBLEM.
BUSTED...
CAN IT, TWERP.

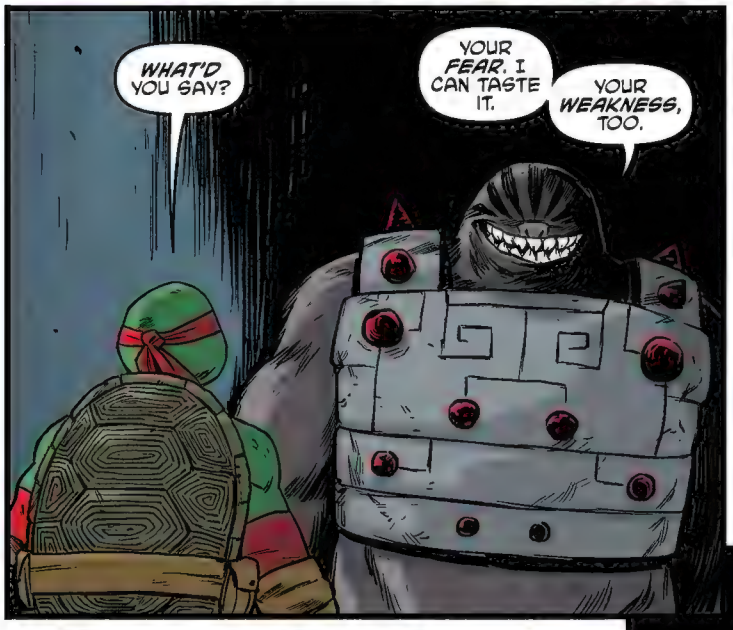

ELSEWHERE...
AN ALLIANCE, YOU SAY?
YES. OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL NATURE.
OH GOD OH GOD OH GOD...
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY IS A BOLD STATEMENT... METALHEAD, IS IT?
IT IS.
WHAT BENEFIT COULD YOU POSSIBLY OFFER ME, METALHEAD?
TO BEGIN WITH, ACCESS TO MY VARIOUS WEAPONS-BASED TECHNOLOGIES.
I'VE ALREADY PROVEN THAT YOUR EARTH PROTECTION FORCE DEFENSES ARE IN SERIOUS NEED OF AN UPGRADE.
TRUE. THOUGH YOU DID HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.
LOCK ON THE ROBOT AND HOLD YOUR FIRE!
HOWEVER, THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE.
SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE YOU, HM?


IT LEAVES ME CALCULATING A MULTITUDE OF KILL RESPONSES TO YOUR SOLDIERS' AMBUSH MANEUVER, THOUGH ADMITTEDLY, IT'S TAKING A BIT LONGER THAN NORMAL.
CHNK
WRRR!
CONVENTIONAL WISDOM DICTATES I GEAR MY STRATEGIC CALCULATIONS TOWARD ELIMINATING THE PRIME THREAT FIRST—THE SO-CALLED "BIG GUNS."
BUT I'VE CHOSEN TO OVERRIDE THAT FUNCTION AND NARROW THE SCOPE OF MY CALCULATIONS—
OVERRIDE PRIMARY TARGET(S)
—SO I CAN START WITH YOU.
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO IMPRESS ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO *BETTER* THAN *THAT*, I'M AFRAID.
YES...
...I SEE.
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
NOW, YOU'VE SHOWN ME SOME OF YOUR TECHNOLOGIES. WHAT *ELSE* OF VALUE MIGHT YOU HAVE TO OFFER?
SOMETHING FAR MORE ORGANIC—
—MUTANT TURTLES.
CAPTAIN, CALL OFF YOUR MEN AND LEAVE OUR GUEST TO *ME*—


"—WE NEED TO TALK."
SO, WAIT—KOYA'S GOT, LIKE, MAGIC WINGS NOW, AND BLUDGEON CAN SEE THINGS WITH RADAR POWER, EVEN THOUGH HE'S BLIND?
TO PUT IT CRUDELY.
YES—I SENSE THINGS DIFFERENTLY NOW.
DUDE...
...YOU'RE TOTALLY LIKE A SHARK VERSION OF MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CHARACTER!
SO COOL.
IS IT A KIND OF ECHO-LOCATION?
EXCUSE ME?
YOUR NEW SENSE ABILITY... DOES IT REQUIRE SOUND WAVES TO DETECT OBJECTS?
NO... I DON'T THINK SO. I BELIEVE IT'S MORE LIGHT-BASED.
IRONIC, CONSIDERING IT WAS YOUR BRIGHT-LIGHT ATTACK THAT BLINDED ME.
YEAH. SORRY ABOUT THAT.
DON'T BE. IT WAS FAIR COMBAT AND YOU ONLY WOUNDED ME DEFENDING YOUR FAMILY. I WOULD DO THE SAME FOR MINE.
BESIDES, IN MANY WAYS I SEE THE WORLD NOW BETTER THAN I DID BEFORE.
I'M PRETTY SURE THE SCIENTIFIC TERM IS "LIDAR," LIKE RADAR, BUT USING LIGHT WAVES INSTEAD OF RADIO WAVES. A KIND OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION, BASICALLY.
LIDAR, HM?
I LIKE THAT.

GEEKS.
I CAN *TASTE* YOU.

WHAT THE...


WHAT'D YOU SAY?
YOUR *FEAR*. I CAN TASTE IT.
YOUR *WEAKNESS*, TOO.

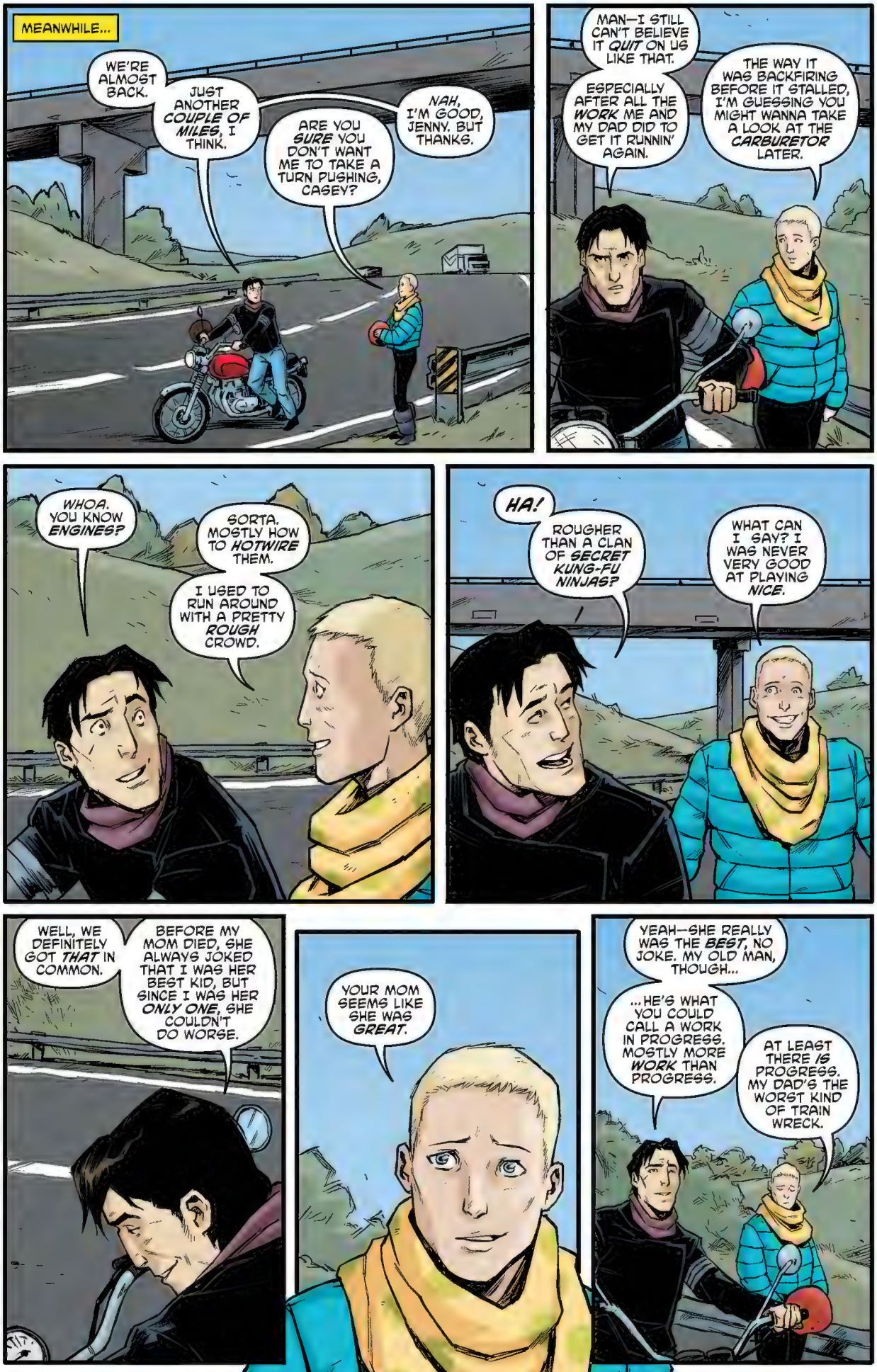
NEWS FLASH, SMILEY—I AIN'T AFRAID OF *YOU*.
YES, I KNOW YOU DO NOT FEAR ME. YOU FEAR YOUR *OWN RAGE*...

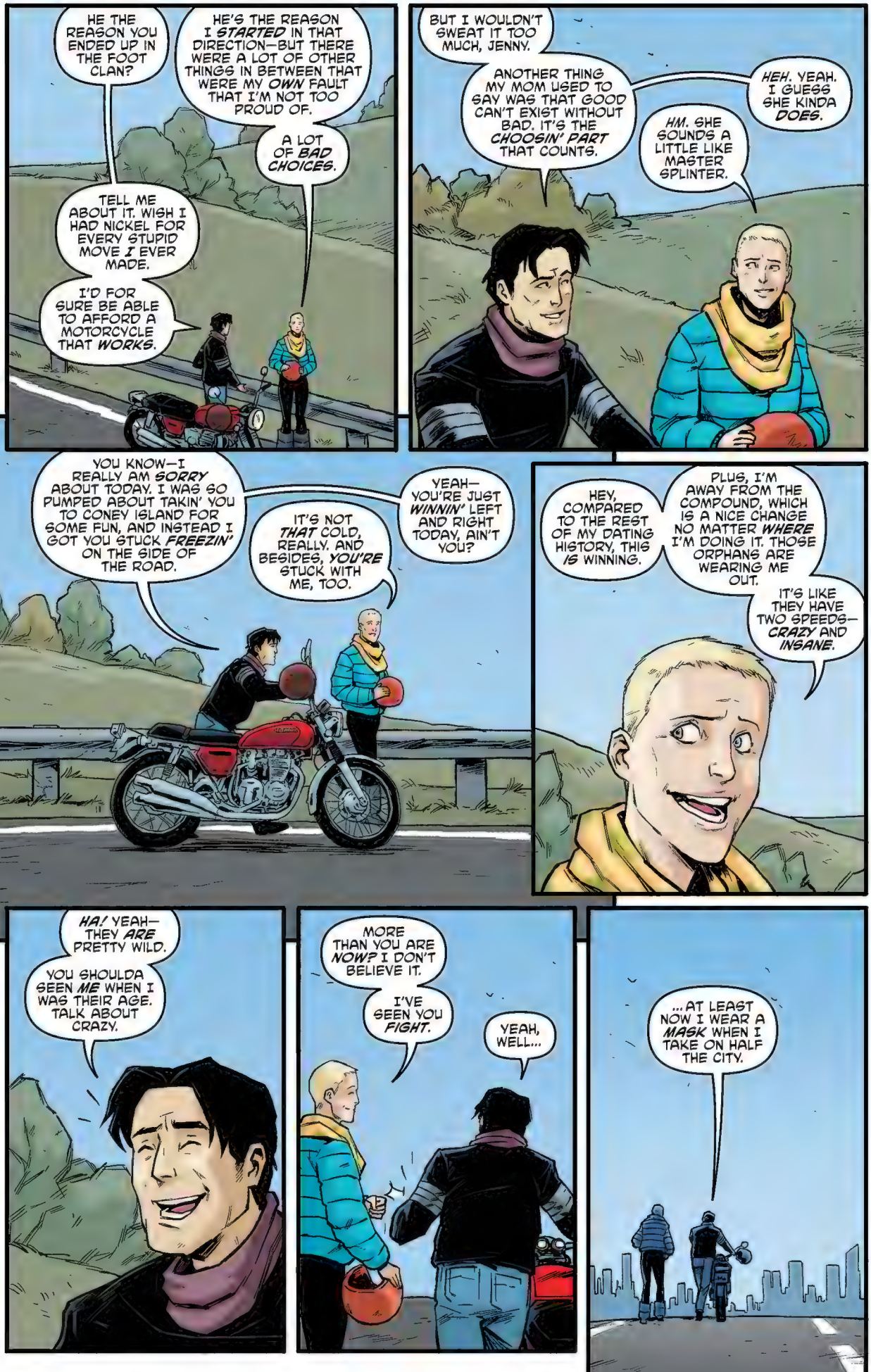
...AND *THAT* MAKES YOU WEAK.
I...

I'LL *SHOW* YOU WEAK.
YES.

PLEASE DO.
"WE WILL *REMAIN* HERE..."

...THIS TIME WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER SHOULD BE YOUR *OWN*, OROKU KARAI.
THANK YOU, MASTER SPLINTER.
THERE *IS* ONE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER.
DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO STOP HER, THE WITCH KITSUNE WAS ABLE TO STEAL AWAY OROKU SAKI'S *BODY* FROM THIS CHAMBER.
STOLEN? BUT... WHY?
FOR *ARCANE PURPOSES*, NO DOUBT. SHE AND HER PANTHEON BRETHREN PLAY AT WICKED GAMES, THE RULES OF WHICH BEAR *LITTLE REGARD* FOR WE MERE MORTALS.
THEN THIS TOMB HAS BECOME A *MEMORIAL* RATHER THAN A PLACE OF REST?
NOT ENTIRELY. EVEN MORTALS ARE ALLOWED THE OCCASIONAL *SMALL VICTORY* AFTER ALL.
IT IS KARAI, GRANDFATHER.
YOUR *CHUNIN* HAS RETURNED.


MEANWHILE...
WE'RE ALMOST BACK.
JUST ANOTHER COUPLE OF MILES, I THINK.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TAKE A TURN PUSHING, CASEY?
NAH, I'M GOOD, JENNY. BUT THANKS.
MAN—I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT QUIT ON US LIKE THAT.
ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE WORK ME AND MY DAD DID TO GET IT RUNNIN' AGAIN.
THE WAY IT WAS BACKFIRING BEFORE IT STALLED, I'M GUESSING YOU MIGHT WANNA TAKE A LOOK AT THE CARBURETOR LATER.
WHOA. YOU KNOW ENGINES?
SORTA. MOSTLY HOW TO HOTWIRE THEM.
I USED TO RUN AROUND WITH A PRETTY ROUGH CROWD.
HA!
ROUGHER THAN A CLAN OF SECRET KUNG-FU NINJAS?
WHAT CAN I SAY? I WAS NEVER VERY GOOD AT PLAYING NICE.
WELL, WE DEFINITELY GOT THAT IN COMMON.
BEFORE MY MOM DIED, SHE ALWAYS JOKED THAT I WAS HER BEST KID, BUT SINCE I WAS HER ONLY ONE, SHE COULDN'T DO WORSE.
YOUR MOM SEEMS LIKE SHE WAS GREAT.
YEAH—SHE REALLY WAS THE BEST, NO JOKE. MY OLD MAN, THOUGH...
...HE'S WHAT YOU COULD CALL A WORK IN PROGRESS. MOSTLY MORE WORK THAN PROGRESS.
AT LEAST THERE IS PROGRESS. MY DAD'S THE WORST KIND OF TRAIN WRECK.


HE THE REASON YOU ENDED UP IN THE FOOT CLAN?
HE'S THE REASON I STARTED IN THAT DIRECTION—BUT THERE WERE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS IN BETWEEN THAT WERE MY OWN FAULT THAT I'M NOT TOO PROUD OF.
A LOT OF BAD CHOICES.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. WISH I HAD NICKEL FOR EVERY STUPID MOVE I EVER MADE.
I'D FOR SURE BE ABLE TO AFFORD A MOTORCYCLE THAT WORKS.
BUT I WOULDN'T SWEAT IT TOO MUCH, JENNY.
ANOTHER THING MY MOM USED TO SAY WAS THAT GOOD CAN'T EXIST WITHOUT BAD. IT'S THE CHOOSIN' PART THAT COUNTS.
HM. SHE SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE MASTER SPLINTER.
HEH. YEAH. I GUESS SHE KINDA DOES.
YOU KNOW—I REALLY AM SORRY ABOUT TODAY. I WAS SO PUMPED ABOUT TAKIN' YOU TO CONEY ISLAND FOR SOME FUN, AND INSTEAD I GOT YOU STUCK FREEZIN' ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.
IT'S NOT THAT COLD, REALLY. AND BESIDES, YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME, TOO.
YEAH—YOU'RE JUST WINNIN' LEFT AND RIGHT TODAY, AIN'T YOU?
HEY, COMPARED TO THE REST OF MY DATING HISTORY, THIS IS WINNING.
PLUS, I'M AWAY FROM THE COMPOUND, WHICH IS A NICE CHANGE NO MATTER WHERE I'M DOING IT. THOSE ORPHANS ARE WEARING ME OUT.
IT'S LIKE THEY HAVE TWO SPEEDS—CRAZY AND INSANE.
HA! YEAH—THEY ARE PRETTY WILD.
YOU SHOULDA SEEN ME WHEN I WAS THEIR AGE. TALK ABOUT CRAZY.
MORE THAN YOU ARE NOW? I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I'VE SEEN YOU FIGHT.
YEAH, WELL...
...AT LEAST NOW I WEAR A MASK WHEN I TAKE ON HALF THE CITY.

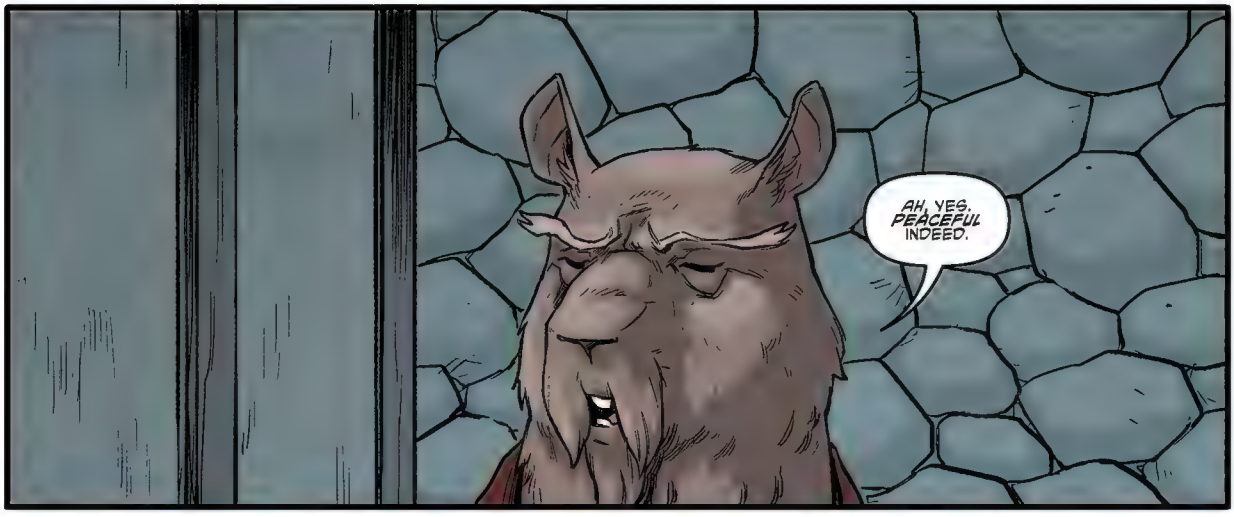
FATHER, CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A LITTLE BIT...
...IT'S IMPORTANT.
OF COURSE, MY SON. I AM ALWAYS READY TO LISTEN.
I HOPE SO.
FATHER, I KNOW YOU HEARD THAT WE ALREADY RAN INTO KARAI AND HER GROUP SINCE SHE GOT BACK TO NEW YORK. AND I'M NOT GONNA LIE...
...WHAT SHE CALLED A DEBATE WAS REALLY A FIGHT. AT FIRST.
AT FIRST?
YEAH. KOYA CAME AFTER ME FOR WHAT I DID TO HER IN THE GAUNTLET, AND THINGS GOT UGLY. BUT THEN...
...BUT THEN THEY GOT BETTER.
ONCE EVERYONE CALMED DOWN, WE WERE ABLE TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US—SHREDDER, THE GAUNTLET, ALL OF IT—AND MOVE FORWARD.
CLAN HAMATO AND THE FOOT CLAN.
ONLY I SPEAK FOR THE FOOT CLAN, LEONARDO.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SENSEI, I DON'T THINK IT HAS TO BE THAT WAY ANYMORE.

KARAI WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE FOOT—SHE BELIEVES IT'S HER BIRTHRIGHT. AND I THINK, MAYBE, SHE'S *RIGHT*.
DO YOU? AND DO YOU ALSO UNDERSTAND *WHY* I TOOK ON THIS ROLE RATHER THAN ALLOW HER TO FOLLOW THE *ILL-FATED PATH* HER GRANDFATHER HAD LAID?
TO *PROTECT* YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS... *AND* TO PROTECT THIS CITY.
NO, YOU TOOK THIS ROLE BECAUSE SHE WILLINGLY *GAVE* IT TO YOU, FATHER... REMEMBER? AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE DON'T *NEED* YOUR PROTECTION!
BEFORE YOU *EVER* BECAME FOOT CLAN MASTER, YOU TAUGHT US HOW TO TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES, AND WE'VE PROVEN WE CAN DO IT OVER AND OVER... AND *OVER* AGAIN!
WE DON'T NEED A PROTECTOR. WE NEED OUR *FATHER*.
AND THIS CITY?
IT'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE, AND NEITHER ARE WE. AND WE'VE GOT *PLENTY* OF FRIENDS READY TO STAND UP AND HELP US FIGHT IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT.
WE'RE NOT *ALONE* ANYMORE... NOT BY A LONG-SHOT.
AND BESIDES, I TALKED TO KARAI, AND SHE PROMISED A *SMOOTH* TRANSITION—NO FIGHTING, NO DESTABILIZATION. A *PEACEFUL EXCHANGE*, THAT'S ALL.
YOU WOULD *DARE* TO NEGOTIATE IN MY STEAD? WITHOUT MY CONSENT?
I WOULD... IF IT MEANS GETTING YOU *BACK*.
MY SON, I—
MASTER SPLINTER...
...I HAVE PAID MY PROPER RESPECTS.
THANK YOU FOR *ALLOWING* ME TO DO SO.

COME THEN—LET US *LEAVE* THIS COLD PLACE.
I KNOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO RETURN TO YOUR GRANDFATHER IN *THIS* WAY, OROKU KARAI.
TO LEAVE BEHIND SUCH A MONUMENTAL PART OF YOUR LIFE, ONLY TO RETURN AND FIND IT SO DRASTICALLY CHANGED CAN *TRY* ONE'S SOUL.
WHENEVER POSSIBLE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECONNECT WITH THE *PLEASANT ASPECTS* OF WHAT CAME BEFORE, AND TO NEVER FORGET THOSE THAT WERE FAR MORE *EGREGIOUS*.
BELIEVE ME, CHILD, *THIS* I KNOW.
TO RETURN AND TO SUCCEED, ONE MUST BE *PREPARED* TO BEAR BOTH OLD AND NEW BURDENS.
I AM *READY*, MASTER SPLINTER. I WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED OTHERWISE.
YES. I KNOW.
AND—
RAPH! STOP BEING STUPID!
WHAT THE...

OH...
...NO.
GRAHH!
WHAK!
WHAK!
SO... DELICIOUS.
THIS IS FOOLISH, OCHO!
YEAH— KNOCK IT OFF, GUYS!
UNRULY BEAST.
DAMN HOTHEAD.

UFF!
HRGK!
THE HELL, LEO?!
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE HELL, RAPH!
YOU WOULD STRIKE ME?
FOR DISRESPECTING THE SANCTITY OF THIS MEETING, I WOULD DO FAR WORSE THAN THAT, CREATURE.
I TOLD YOU THIS ONE'S AURA IS NOTHING BUT DARKNESS, KARAI.
SILENCE, BLUDGEON!
OUTTA MY WAY, LEO. THAT FREAK—
I DON'T CARE, RAPH! THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR YOUR CHILDISH CRAP.
WE TRIED TO TELL HIM HE WAS BEING A BABY, LEO.
SHUT UP, MIKEY!


AH, YES. PEACEFUL INDEED.

WELL, IF YOU ARE ALL QUITE DONE WITH THIS... AHEM... SPIRITED DEBATE, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

AND THAT BUSINESS DOES NOT REQUIRE SQUABBLING AMONGST OURSELVES. NO— IT NECESSITATES EARNEST CONVERSATION AND CAREFUL NEGOTIATION.
AFTER ALL, IT IS QUITE AN IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING...
...FOR THE FOOT CLAN MASTER TO RELINQUISH HIS THRONE TO ANOTHER.

SAY WHAT?

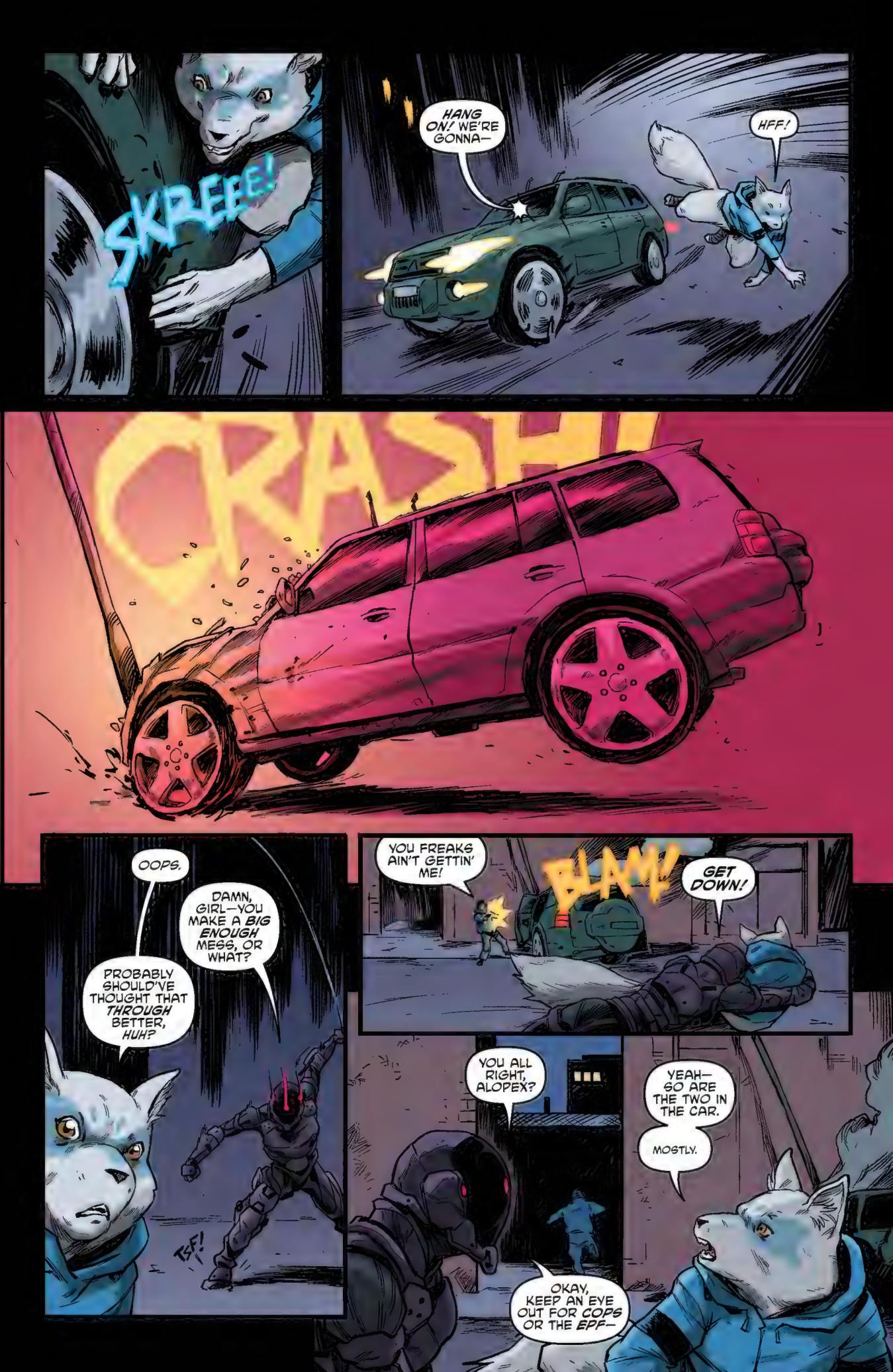
art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by MICHAEL DIALYNAS

ISSUE #92

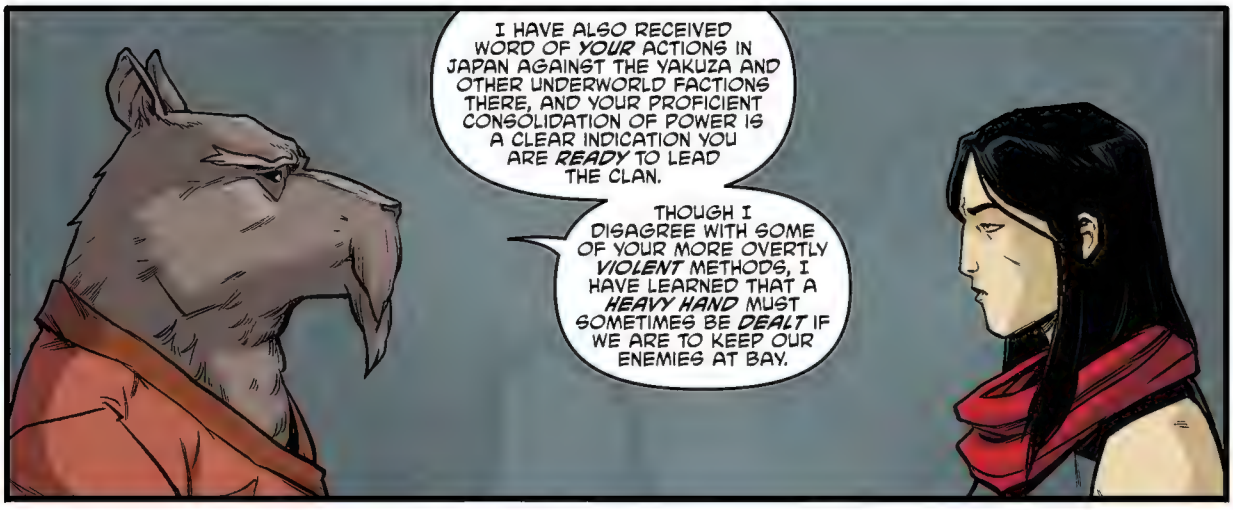
C'MON... C'MON...
RUNNNGG!!
AW, CRAP!
"SAVED BY THE BELL—"
—AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA BE ANOTHER BORING PATROL.
OYZO WINES
DEALS! DEALS! DEALS!
18+
RUNNNNGG!!
UNDER RENOVATION
COMING SOON!
NNF. PERFECT TIMING, TOO— MY BACK WAS STARTING TO CRAMP UP.
"HERE THEY COME."
WINES
I TOL' YOU HE WAS GONNA YANK THE ALARM!
HURRY THE HELL UP, DAMMIT!
BLAM! BLAM!
OKAY. I GOT THE CAR.
NO—WAIT. LEAVE THAT TO ME, ANGEL.
I SAW THE COOLEST MOVE ON A MOVIE THE OTHER DAY...
SKKBEEEP
"...AND I'VE BEEN DYING TO TRY IT OUT."

DIDJA GET IT?!
HELL YEAH! CLEANED THAT SUCKER OUT!
CASH AND BOOZE, BABY!
SHUNK! SHUNK!
WHAT THE—
SO FAR, SO GOOD.
THERE'S SOMETHIN' ON THE FREAKIN' ROOF!
QUIT SITTIN' THERE LIKE A MORON AND SHOOT!
BLAM BLAM!
OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
AND NOW THE FUN PART.


SKREEE!
HANG ON! WE'RE GONNA—
HFF!
CRASH!
OOPS.
DAMN, GIRL—YOU MAKE A BIG ENOUGH MESS, OR WHAT?
PROBABLY SHOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT THROUGH BETTER, HUH?
TSF!
YOU FREAKS AIN'T GETTIN' ME!
BLAM!
GET DOWN!
YOU ALL RIGHT, ALOPEX?
YEAH—SO ARE THE TWO IN THE CAR.
MOSTLY.
OKAY, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR COPS OR THE EPF—

"—I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE *RUNNER*."
AH, NO! NO!
WRONG LIQUOR STORE, WRONG CAR, WRONG ALLEY...
BLAM!
GAH!
CLICK! CLICK!
...AND NOW YOU'RE OUTTA BULLETS.
AIN'T YOUR *LUCKY NIGHT*, DUDE.
WOO!
OHHH...
Y'KNOW, I TAKE IT BACK—YOU *DID* GET LUCKY. 'CAUSE THIS COULDA BEEN A *WHOLE LOT* WORSE FOR YOU—

"—YOU COULDA RUN INTO THE FOOT CLAN."
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE WE BEGIN?
IF SO, NOW WOULD BE THE TIME TO PRESENT THEM, OROKU KARAI.
TRUTHFULLY, I HAVE MANY QUESTIONS AT THIS MOMENT, HAMATO-SAN—
—I'M STILL STUNNED BY YOUR... YOUR SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART IN THIS MATTER.
NOT SO SUDDEN AS IT MAY APPEAR, TRUTH BE TOLD. MY DECISION TO ACCEPT RULERSHIP OF THE CLAN WAS FAR MORE SPONTANEOUS THAN MY CHOICE TO RELINQUISH IT BACK TO YOU TODAY.
THIS IS A MOMENT I HAVE CONTEMPLATED OFTEN SINCE I FIRST ROSE TO BECOME FOOT MASTER.
MORE SO RECENTLY IN THE WAKE OF CERTAIN DRAMATIC EVENTS INVOLVING MY FAMILY BEYOND THESE WALLS.


I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED WORD OF *YOUR* ACTIONS IN JAPAN AGAINST THE YAKUZA AND OTHER UNDERWORLD FACTIONS THERE, AND YOUR PROFICIENT CONSOLIDATION OF POWER IS A CLEAR INDICATION YOU ARE *READY* TO LEAD THE CLAN.
THOUGH I DISAGREE WITH SOME OF YOUR MORE OVERTLY *VIOLENT* METHODS, I HAVE LEARNED THAT A *HEAVY HAND* MUST SOMETIMES BE *DEALT* IF WE ARE TO KEEP OUR ENEMIES AT BAY.

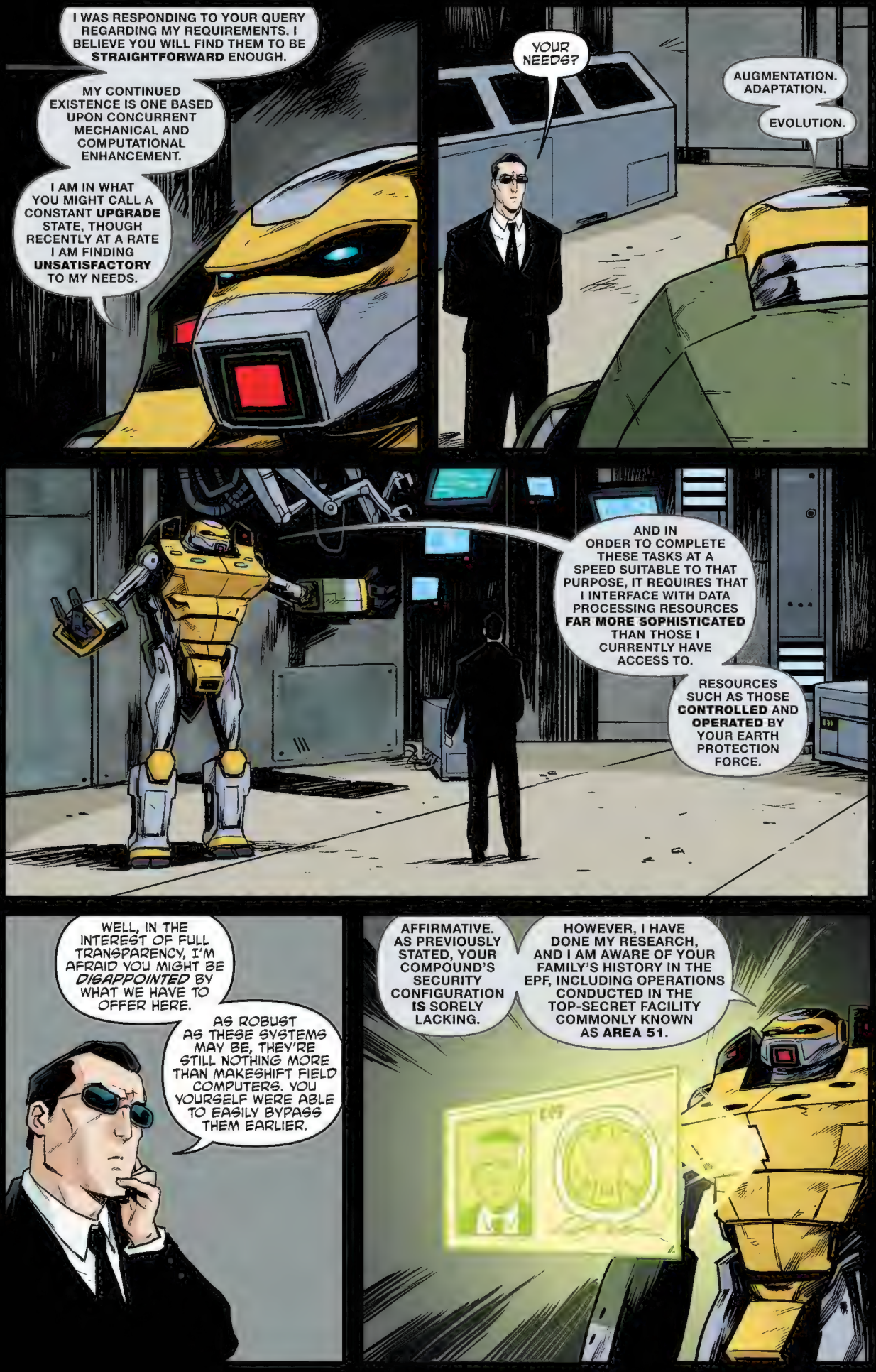
AND I NO LONGER HAVE THE DESIRE TO BE THE ONE TO *DEAL* IT.

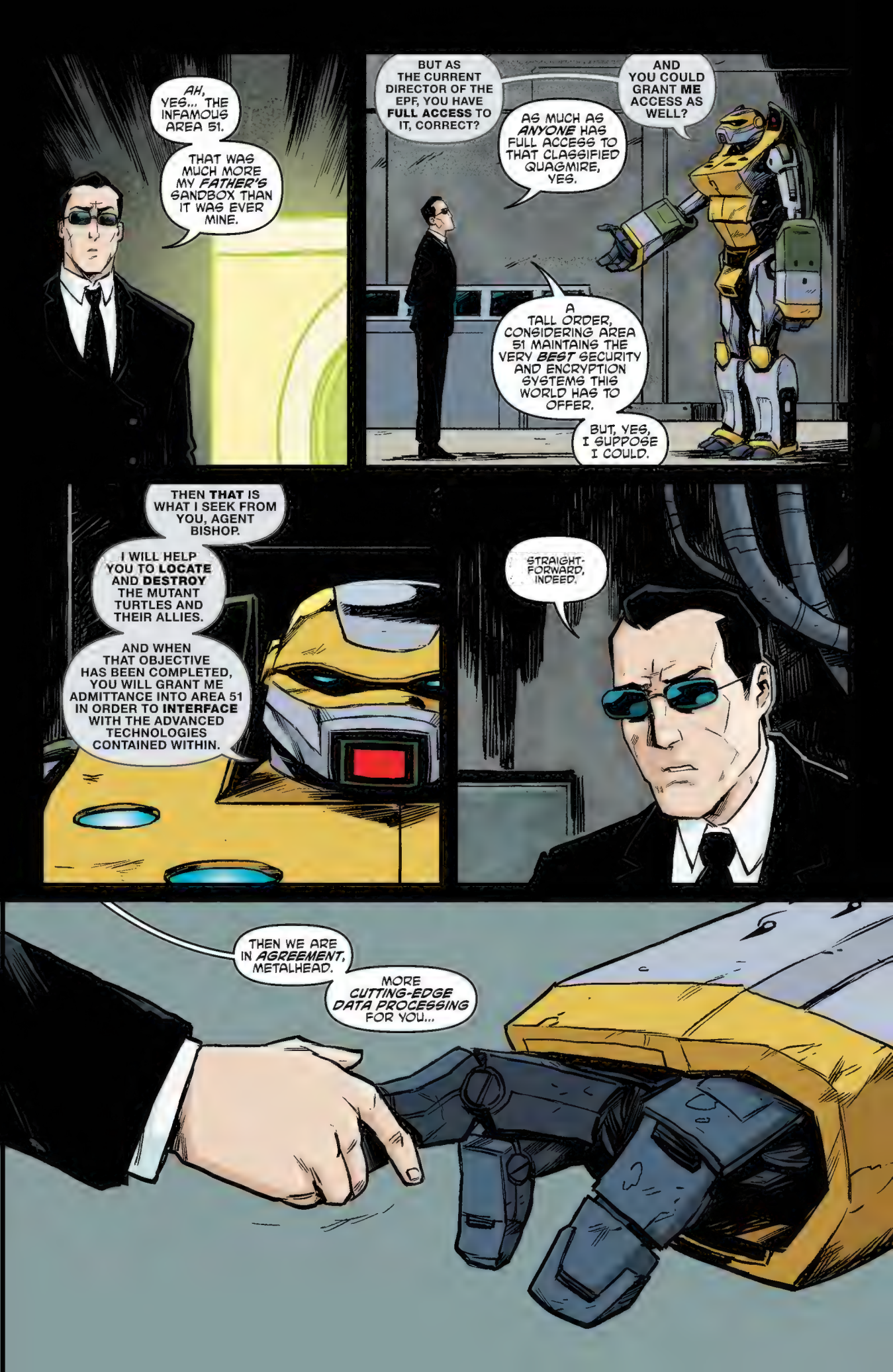
WHICH BRINGS US TO *THIS* MOMENT YOU SPOKE OF—A MOMENT, ADMITTEDLY, I HAVE ANTICIPATED WITH BOTH DREAD AND EAGERNESS.
IT HAS BEEN MY EXTREME HONOR TO *SERVE* AS MASTER OF THE FOOT CLAN... AND IT WILL BE MY SINCERE PLEASURE TO *RETURN* TO MY FAMILY ONCE IT IS NO LONGER MY CHARGE.

TODAY, THAT DUTY FALLS TO *YOU*.
SHALL WE *BEGIN*, OROKU KARAI?

HAI, MASTER SPLINTER.

"SO, WHAT IS IT I CAN DO FOR YOU?"
WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING FROM THE EPF IN RETURN FOR YOUR OFFER OF THE MUTANT TURTLES?*
I WOULD—
OHHH...
*See TMNT #91 – B.C.
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE.
DR. SHEVLIN?
Y-YES?
YOU MAY CEASE YOUR PITEOUS GROVELING AND VACATE THE COMMAND CENTER NOW.
TH-THANK YOU, AGENT BISHOP.
YOU WERE SAYING?


I WAS RESPONDING TO YOUR QUERY REGARDING MY REQUIREMENTS. I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND THEM TO BE **STRAIGHTFORWARD** ENOUGH.
MY CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS ONE BASED UPON CONCURRENT MECHANICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL ENHANCEMENT.
I AM IN WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A CONSTANT **UPGRADE** STATE, THOUGH RECENTLY AT A RATE I AM FINDING **UNSATISFACTORY** TO MY NEEDS.
YOUR NEEDS?
AUGMENTATION. ADAPTATION.
EVOLUTION.
AND IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THESE TASKS AT A SPEED SUITABLE TO THAT PURPOSE, IT REQUIRES THAT I INTERFACE WITH DATA PROCESSING RESOURCES **FAR MORE SOPHISTICATED** THAN THOSE I CURRENTLY HAVE ACCESS TO.
RESOURCES SUCH AS THOSE **CONTROLLED** AND **OPERATED** BY YOUR EARTH PROTECTION FORCE.
WELL, IN THE INTEREST OF FULL TRANSPARENCY, I'M AFRAID YOU MIGHT BE *DISAPPOINTED* BY WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER HERE.
AS ROBUST AS THESE SYSTEMS MAY BE, THEY'RE STILL NOTHING MORE THAN MAKESHIFT FIELD COMPUTERS. YOU YOURSELF WERE ABLE TO EASILY BYPASS THEM EARLIER.
AFFIRMATIVE. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, YOUR COMPOUND'S SECURITY CONFIGURATION **IS** SORELY LACKING.
HOWEVER, I HAVE DONE MY RESEARCH, AND I AM AWARE OF YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY IN THE EPF, INCLUDING OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN THE TOP-SECRET FACILITY COMMONLY KNOWN AS **AREA 51**.


AH, YES... THE INFAMOUS AREA 51.
THAT WAS MUCH MORE MY *FATHER'S* SANDBOX THAN IT WAS EVER MINE.
BUT AS THE CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE EPF, YOU HAVE **FULL ACCESS** TO IT, CORRECT?
AS MUCH AS *ANYONE* HAS FULL ACCESS TO THAT CLASSIFIED QUAGMIRE, YES.
AND YOU COULD GRANT **ME** ACCESS AS WELL?
A TALL ORDER, CONSIDERING AREA 51 MAINTAINS THE VERY *BEST* SECURITY AND ENCRYPTION SYSTEMS THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER.
BUT, YES, I SUPPOSE I COULD.
THEN **THAT** IS WHAT I SEEK FROM YOU, AGENT BISHOP.
I WILL HELP YOU TO **LOCATE** AND **DESTROY** THE MUTANT TURTLES AND THEIR ALLIES.
AND WHEN THAT OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, YOU WILL GRANT ME ADMITTANCE INTO AREA 51 IN ORDER TO **INTERFACE** WITH THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES CONTAINED WITHIN.
STRAIGHT-FORWARD, INDEED.
THEN WE ARE IN *AGREEMENT*, METALHEAD.
MORE *CUTTING-EDGE DATA PROCESSING* FOR YOU...

"...AND MORE FUGITIVE MONSTER TERRORISTS FOR ME."
YOU KNOW, THE MORE I WORK ON THIS SHIP, THE MORE I REALIZE I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DAMN THING.
HALF THE TIME I THINK I'M MAKING THE WRONG FIXES.
AS LONG AS THE OTHER HALF YOU'RE MAKIN' THE RIGHT ONES, WE'LL BE GOOD TO GO. 'SPECIALLY IF IT'S THE KILLIN' HALF.
NYC MAYORAL DEBATE
YEAH—'CAUSE THERE'S NOT ENOUGH KILLING STUFF IN THIS ARSENAL ALREADY.
YOU KNOW, HOB, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU START WALKING BACK THIS NEW "KILL 'EM ALL" ACT OF YOURS?
I MEAN, YOUR RANT AT SLASH'S MEMORIAL WAS UNDERSTANDABLE—WE WERE ALL FEELING PRETTY RAW AFTER BURNOW ISLAND. BUT YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.
TIME TO LET THE DEAD REST, YEAH?
THE DEAD DON'T REST, SALLY. THEY ROT.
AND I'M JUST GETTIN' STARTED MAKIN' MY POINT.

'SIDES, I AIN'T THE ONLY MUTANIMAL INTENT ON MAKIN' IT. THE OTHERS ARE ITCHIN' FOR SOME SERIOUS PAYBACK, TOO.
OTHERS? WHO—RAY AND HERMAN? THOSE TWO WOULD FOLLOW YOU INTO A FURNACE IF YOU TOLD THEM BURNING THEMSELVES ALIVE WOULD HURT THE HUMANS.
I HIGHLY DOUBT MONDO, PETE, LINDSEY, AND SEYMOUR ARE AS EQUALLY FIRED-UP ABOUT YOUR NEW SCORCHED-EARTH POLICY. I KNOW I'M NOT.
YOU'LL ALL COME AROUND SOON ENOUGH, AND I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO CHANGE YOUR MINDS.
THE HUMANS'LL DO SOMETHIN' TO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS AGAIN, GUARANTEED.
IF WE DON'T SHOW OURS FIRST.
NC MAYORAL EBATE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IF WE DON'T SHOW—
SHH.
I WANNA HEAR THIS.
AND WE WILL END TONIGHT'S DEBATE WITH INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE DR. BAXTER STOCKMAN'S CLOSING STATEMENT.
THANK YOU, IRMA...
R BAXTER STOCKMA
INDEPEND
...THOUGH HOW I AM SERIOUSLY EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE INANE RAMBLINGS OF MY SO-CALLED OPPONENTS IS BEYOND ME.
DANG IT, I SPECIFICALLY TOLD HIM NOT TO BE A POMPOUS JACKASS.
XIT
STAFF

BUT I... AHEM.
I DIGRESS.
THE POINT I WISH TO MAKE IS SIMPLY THIS. MY OPPONENTS HAVE COPIOUSLY LAID OUT THEIR INTENTIONS FOR THIS GREAT CITY SHOULD THEY BE ELECTED.
SHARED THEIR PLANS FOR WHAT THEY HOPE TO DO ONCE THEY ARE POSITIONED IN CITY HALL'S TOP RANK.
AND QUITE FRANKLY, AS WELL INTENDED AS THEIR PROCLAMATIONS MAY BE, THE TRUTH IS, UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE, THEY ARE MERELY WORDS. MERITLESS HOT AIR, TO PUT IT CRUDELY.
I, FOR ONE, WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH LONG-WINDED PLEDGES. ONLY EMPIRICALLY PROVEN FACTS.
MY NAME IS DOCTOR BAXTER STOCKMAN. I AM AN ACCOMPLISHED SCIENTIST, INVENTOR, AND BUSINESSMAN.
I HAVE IRREFUTABLY PRODUCED SUCCESS IN EVERY ENDEAVOR I'VE EVER UNDERTAKEN.
I HAVE SAVED THIS CITY FROM TERRORIST DESTRUCTION AND VERMIN PLAGUE.
I AM A MAN WHO DOESN'T SAY WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO. I JUST DO IT.
WHICH MEANS, WHEN YOU GO TO THE POLLS IN A FEW WEEKS, YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS.
YOU CAN CHOOSE WORDS—
—OR YOU CAN CHOOSE ACTION.
I THINK HE ACTUALLY DID IT.
"HE'S GONNA WIN..."
...STOCKMAN.
THOSE OTHER TWO DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
YEP.
I'M COUNTIN' ON IT.

...AND SO WE ARE *AGREED* ON THE TIMING OF THE TRANSFER OF FINANCIAL ASSETS IN THE QUEENS BOROUGH.
WHICH BRINGS US AT LAST TO THE FUTURE STATUS OF *CLAN HAMATO*.
TOO LATE. CLAN HAMATO GOT *BORED* TO DEATH.
=SNORT=
LOCK IT *UP*, GUYS!
YEAH—THIS IS *IMPORTANT*.
BY RIGHTS, ONCE I HAVE GIVEN RULERSHIP OF THE FOOT CLAN OVER TO YOU, I WILL *RECLAIM* MASTERSHIP OF CLAN HAMATO.
AS SUCH, I SEEK A *TRUCE* BETWEEN OUR TWO CLANS.
I SEE NO REASON WE CANNOT PEACEFULLY *COEXIST* IN THIS CITY.
YES!

THERE ARE OTHER OUTSIDE ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, INTENT ON CONFLICT WITH MUTANTKIND... AND BY ASSOCIATION, OUR NINJA CLANS.
CLAN HAMATO CONSIDERS THIS A SHARED THREAT AND OFFERS ALLEGIANCE TO THE FOOT CLAN, AS NEEDED, IN OPPOSING THESE ELEMENTS.
AND WHAT OF THE MUTANIMALS, HAMATO-SAN? AND THE PURPLE DRAGONS?
WILL THEY BE FRIEND OR FOE TO THE FOOT CLAN ONCE YOU ARE NO LONGER MASTER?
AN EXCELLENT QUESTION, OROKU KARAI... WITH NO EASY ANSWERS, I'M AFRAID.
THE MUTANIMALS HAVE BEEN, AT BEST, LOOSELY ALLIED WITH THE FOOT CLAN AND, FOR THAT MATTER, CLAN HAMATO AS WELL. A SOMETIMES MUTUALLY CONVENIENT ARRANGEMENT THAT IS BOTH UNSTABLE AND UNPREDICTABLE.
I WOULD ADVISE EXTREME CAUTION IN ANY FUTURE DEALINGS WITH OLD HOB AND HIS SOLDIERS.
THE PURPLE DRAGONS ARE ANOTHER MATTER ALTOGETHER.
ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN STAUNCH ALLIES TO THE FOOT CLAN, I BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE REMAINED SO PRIMARILY DUE TO THE CLOSE NATURE OF MY FAMILY'S PERSONAL CONNECTION TO THEIR LEADER, CASEY JONES.
PERHAPS HE CAN BE CONVINCED TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE BOTH OUR CLANS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL?
CASEY JONES HAS PROVEN TO BE A CAPABLE LEADER BEYOND HIS YEARS—MUCH LIKE YOURSELF AND MY SON LEONARDO—SO I WILL LEAVE ALL DECISIONS AFFECTING THE PURPLE DRAGONS TO HIM.
UNDERSTOOD.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
RAPH!

VERY WELL, THEN. I BELIEVE WE HAVE SATISFIED ALL THE KEY AREAS OF CONCERN.
ARE WE IN AGREEMENT ON ALL MATTERS, OROKU KARAI?
NEARLY. THERE IS ONE LAST CRITICAL ITEM WE MUST DISCUSS—
—THE CHILDREN CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN FOOT CLAN CUSTODY.
AH, YES— THE ORPHANS. THEY ARE NOT PRISONERS.
RATHER, THEY ARE IN THE JOINT CARE OF THE FOOT AND HAMATO CLANS.
OUR CARE?
SURELY YOU MEAN AS FUTURE SOLDIERS.
I DO NOT. I REALIZE THE FOOT CLAN HAS A LONG-ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF CONSCRIPTING YOUNG CHILDREN INTO ITS RANKS, BUT THESE ORPHANS WILL NEVER BE FORCED TO BE SOLDIERS FOR THIS CLAN OR ANY OTHER.
THEY ARE ONLY TO BE NURTURED AND EDUCATED BY US UNTIL MORE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR THEM.
THIS IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.
BUT... THIS WILL NOT DO. WE HAVE ENEMIES CLOSING IN ON ALL SIDES—AS YOU HAVE STATED—AND STRENGTHENING OUR CLAN MUST BE OUR FOCUS. CERTAINLY NOT... BABYSITTING.
THESE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE FOOT CLAN.
THE INTEGRITY OF THE CLAN DEPENDS ON THEM BEING CONSCRIPTED.
EITHER THEY BECOME SOLDIERS...

...OR THEY MUST DIE.
NO!
MY SON, DO NOT INTERRUPT.
BUT THE KIDS, FATHER... YOU PROMISED—
I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN MY PROMISE, MICHELANGELO. LOWER YOUR WEAPONS AND STEP BACK.
PLEASE, OROKU KARAI, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU NEED NOT WORRY. THE FOOT CLAN IS AT NO RISK OF THESE CHILDREN REVEALING ANY OF OUR SECRETS.
I HAVE MADE A SOLEMN PLEDGE FOR THEIR WELLBEING, AND I WILL HONOR THAT PLEDGE.
THERE WILL BE NO KILLING OF THE INNOCENT.
I FORBID IT.
THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.

I, OROKU KARAI, FORMALLY CHALLENGE YOU, HAMATO YOSHI, TO *THE GAUNTLET*.

OH... NO.

OH, YES.

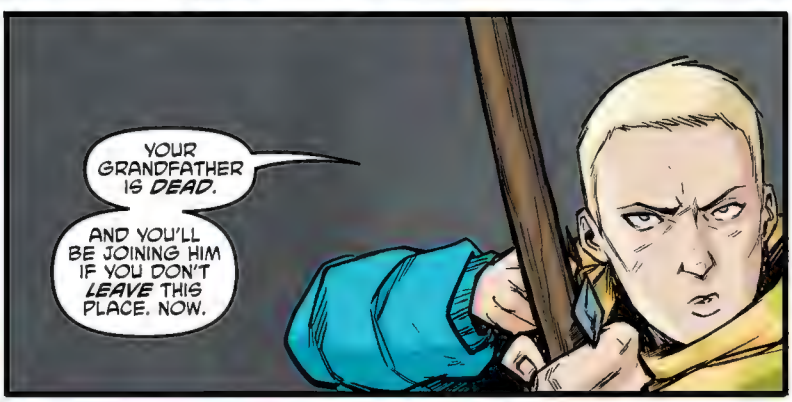
YOUR CHALLENGE IS RESPECTFULLY *DENIED*, OROKU KARAI.

WHAT?!

YOU WOULD DARE *DISHONOR* YOURSELF WITH SUCH COWARDICE?
I SAID NO INNOCENT BLOOD WOULD BE *SPILLED* TODAY.
I *MEANT* WHAT I SAID.
AND *WHO* YOU CALLIN' COWARD?
YOUR RODENT FATHER.
BY REFUSING THIS SACRED RITE, HE *REVEALS* HIS TRUE WEAKNESS AND *FORFEITS* HIS CLAIM TO THE THRONE.
WRONG, KARAI...

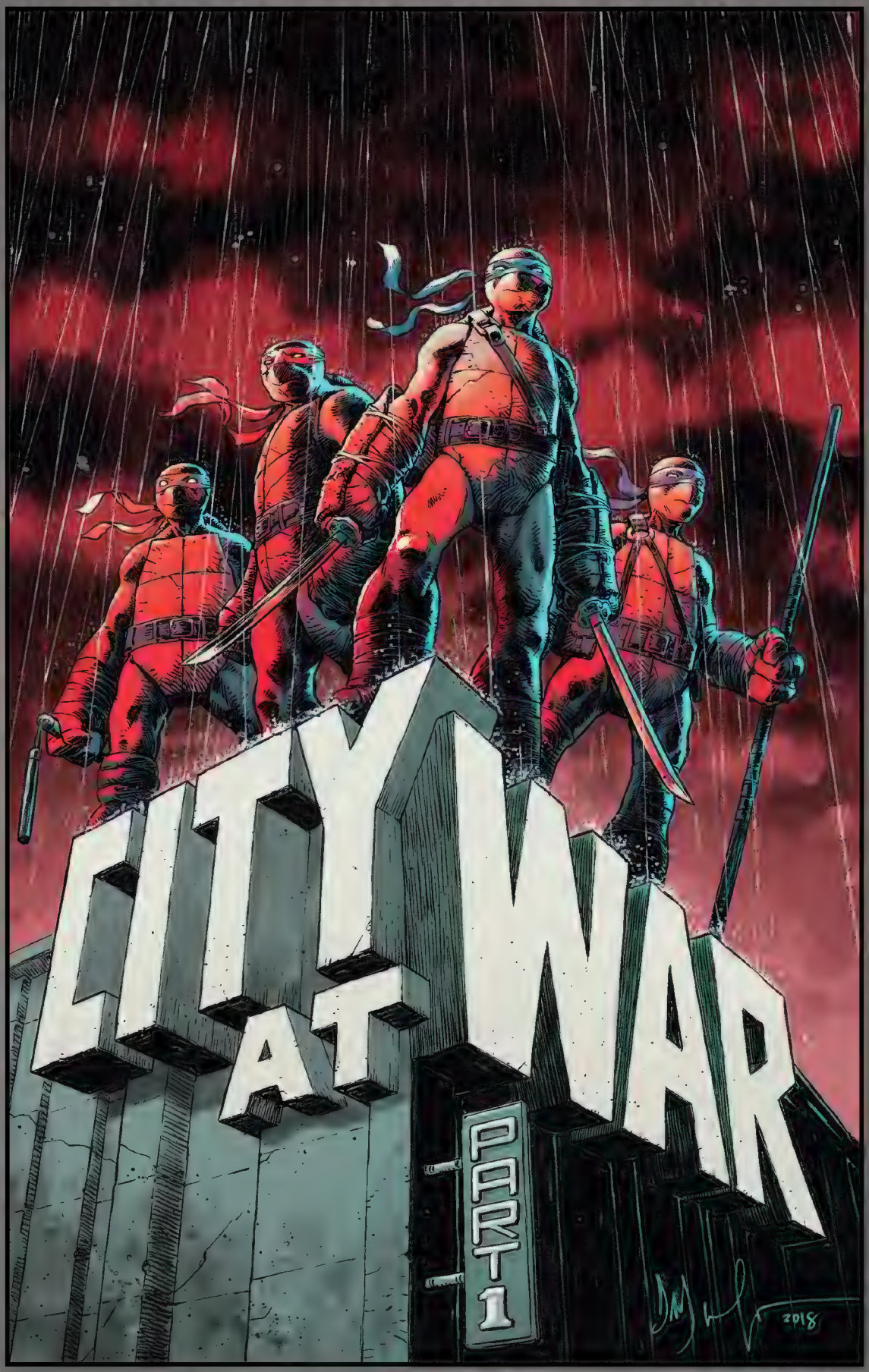
...SPLINTER IS *MASTER* HERE.
AND YOU'RE *TRESPASSING* IN HIS DOMAIN.

WELL, I SEE MY GRANDFATHER'S *ASSASSIN* STILL RETAINS HER TEETH AT LEAST.


YOUR GRANDFATHER IS *DEAD*.
AND YOU'LL BE JOINING HIM IF YOU DON'T *LEAVE* THIS PLACE. NOW.

FINE. WE'LL LEAVE.
BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE—THESE SO-CALLED NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE OVER, BUT MY CLAIM TO THE FOOT CLAN THRONE IS *NOT*.
KOYA. BLUDGEON. OCHO.
COME.
OROKU KARAI— WAIT.
I RECOGNIZE THE *WEAPON* YOU NOW WIELD. *KIRA NO KEN*. THE ACCURSED "SWORD OF HATE."
LIKE THE GAUNTLET RITUAL, AN ANCIENT TOOL OF *DEATH*.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, IF THERE IS *ANYTHING* I HAVE LEARNED AS FOOT MASTER, IT IS THAT GRASPING TOO TIGHTLY TO THE *COLD-BLOODED REMNANTS* OF OUR PAST CAN ONLY LEAD TO *DESTRUCTION* IN THE PRESENT.
AND IN THE END, ALL YOU WILL KNOW IS *SADNESS*.
SADNESS WILL BE THE *LEAST* OF YOUR WORRIES SOON, MUTANT.
YOU MAY BE TOO TIMID TO DEAL A HEAVY HAND, BUT *I* AM NOT.
WAR IS COMING.
AND IN THE END, I WILL ENSURE YOU KNOW DEATH AND DESTRUCTION LIKE *NEVER* BEFORE.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA



art by DAVE WACHTER

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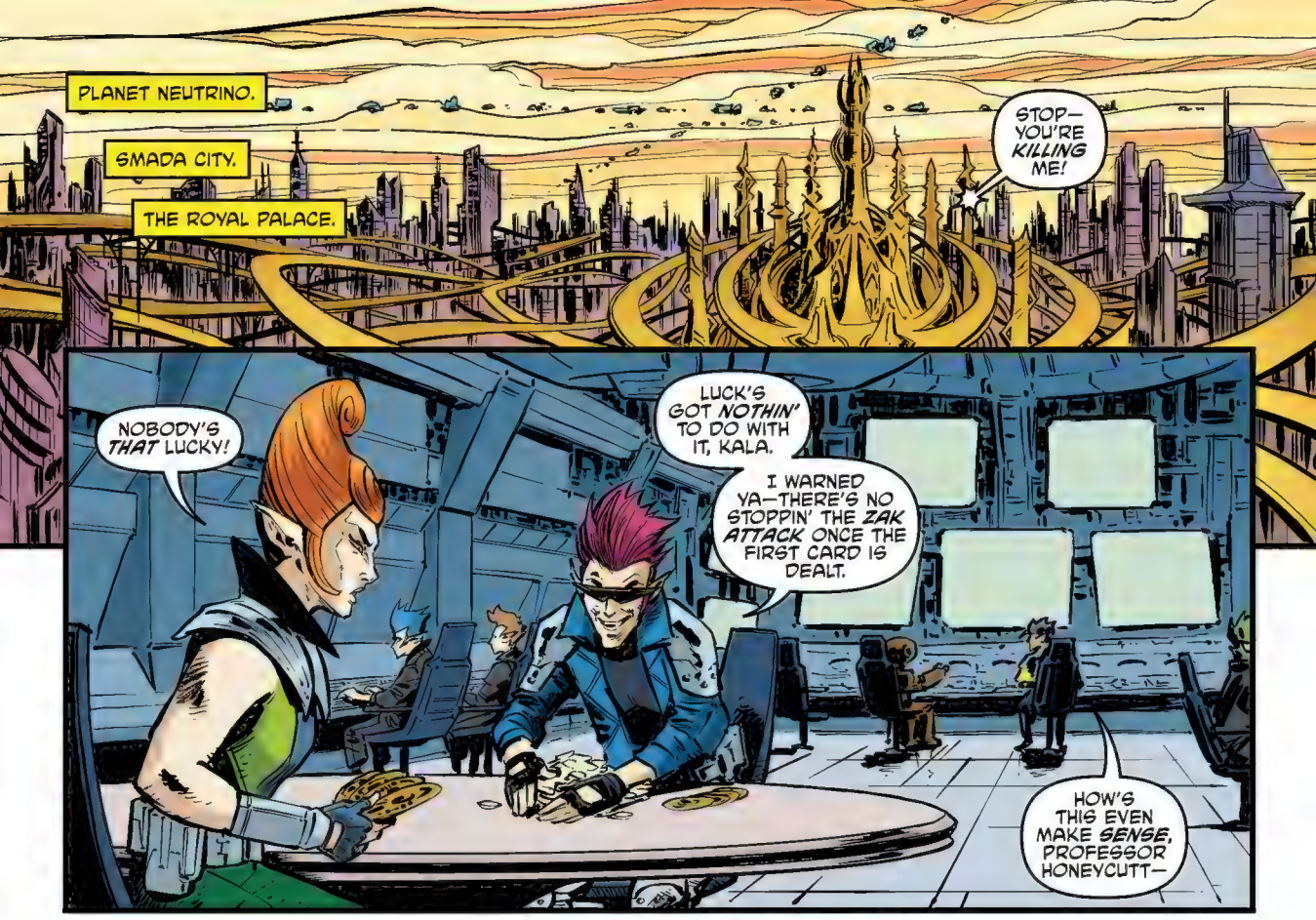

PLANET NEUTRINO.
SMADA CITY.
THE ROYAL PALACE.
STOP— YOU'RE KILLING ME!
NOBODY'S THAT LUCKY!
LUCK'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH IT, KALA.
I WARNED YA—THERE'S NO STOPPIN' THE ZAK ATTACK ONCE THE FIRST CARD IS DEALT.
HOW'S THIS EVEN MAKE SENSE, PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT—

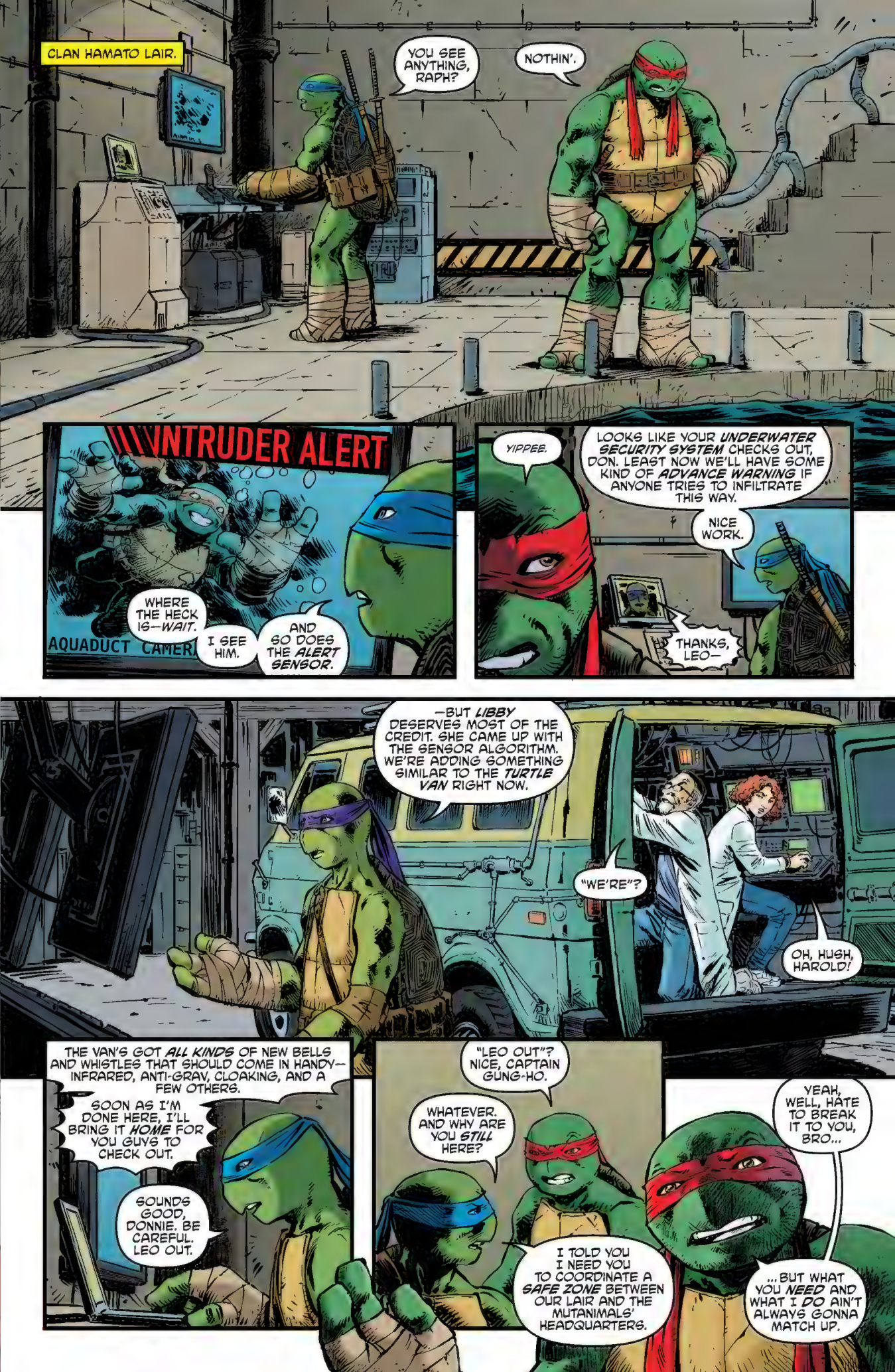
—THE TWO YOUNG GUNS GET TO GOOF AROUND WHILE US OLDIES GET STUCK DOING ALL THE WORK? WHAT KIND OF WORLD IS THAT?
THE BEST KIND, COMMANDER DASK.

WE NEVER HESITATE TO SEND OUR CHILDREN OFF TO FIGHT OUR WARS, SO IT SEEMS ONLY RIGHT THAT WE GIVE THEM AMPLE TIME TO ENJOY THE PRECIOUS FEW MOMENTS OF PEACE THAT SAME FIGHTING AFFORDS.
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD DAY WHEN THE ONLY FIGHTING GOING ON IS OVER A FRIENDLY CARD GAME.

AND AS SOON AS I'M DONE COMPILING THIS FINAL REPORT ON GENERAL KRANG'S TRIAL, I THINK I'LL JOIN THEIR GAME, AND WE'LL SEE HOW WELL THE "ZAK ATTACK" FARES AGAINST THE FUGIT—OH.
NO.
WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? WHAT'D YOU FIND?
TROUBLE, COMMANDER. POTENTIAL TROUBLE ON THE HORIZON.

PRECIOUS FEW MOMENTS, INDEED.

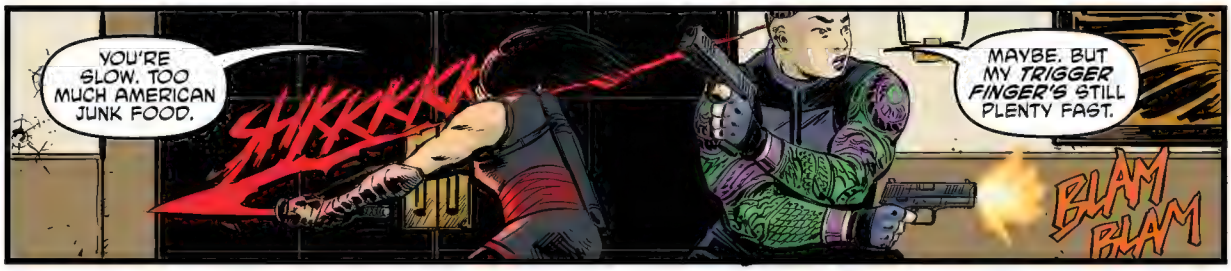
NEW YORK CITY.
FOOT HEAD-QUARTERS.
HAVE THE EXPANDED SECURITY PATROLS BEEN ESTABLISHED ACROSS THE CITY, CHUNIN?
YES, MASTER SPLINTER. I HAVE MEMBERS OF YOUR ELITE GUARD LEADING EACH GROUP AND REPORTING BACK TO ME EVERY HOUR.
NO SIGNS OF KARAI OR HER MUTANTS SO FAR.
I DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT WILL REMAIN THE CASE. OROKU KARAI HAS SWORN AN OATH OF VENGEANCE, AND SHE IS VERY MUCH HER GRANDFATHER'S PROGENY.
WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF HER OR HER SOLDIERS. WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT, JENNIKA.
WHOA... CHECK IT OUT!
IT'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE CHEESY KARATE MOVIES WE'VE BEEN WATCHING.
YEAH. WONDER IF THEY'LL LET US HELP?
AND WE MUST KEEP THE CHILDREN SECURE AT ALL TIMES. AN ATTACK MAY HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT.
SEE TO THEM, THEN SEE TO THE MISSION I HAVE ASSIGNED TO YOU AND CASEY JONES.
HAI, MASTER.
COME ON, YOU TWO. LET'S GO.
DID HE SAY "ATTACK"?
ARE YOU GUYS GETTING READY TO FIGHT, LIKE, A NINJA WAR OR SOMETHING?
COOL!


CLAN HAMATO LAIR.
YOU SEE ANYTHING, RAPH?
NOTHIN'.
INTRUDER ALERT
WHERE THE HECK IS—WAIT.
I SEE HIM.
AND SO DOES THE ALERT SENSOR.
AQUADUCT CAMERA
YIPPEE.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR UNDERWATER SECURITY SYSTEM CHECKS OUT, DON. LEAST NOW WE'LL HAVE SOME KIND OF ADVANCE WARNING IF ANYONE TRIES TO INFILTRATE THIS WAY.
NICE WORK.
THANKS, LEO—
—BUT LIBBY DESERVES MOST OF THE CREDIT. SHE CAME UP WITH THE SENSOR ALGORITHM. WE'RE ADDING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE TURTLE VAN RIGHT NOW.
"WE'RE"?
OH, HUSH, HAROLD!
THE VAN'S GOT ALL KINDS OF NEW BELLS AND WHISTLES THAT SHOULD COME IN HANDY-- INFRARED, ANTI-GRAV, CLOAKING, AND A FEW OTHERS.
SOON AS I'M DONE HERE, I'LL BRING IT HOME FOR YOU GUYS TO CHECK OUT.
SOUNDS GOOD, DONNIE. BE CAREFUL. LEO OUT.
"LEO OUT"? NICE, CAPTAIN GUNG-HO.
WHATEVER. AND WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
I TOLD YOU I NEED YOU TO COORDINATE A SAFE ZONE BETWEEN OUR LAIR AND THE MUTANIMALS' HEADQUARTERS.
YEAH, WELL, HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BRO...
...BUT WHAT YOU NEED AND WHAT I DO AIN'T ALWAYS GONNA MATCH UP.

YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE THIS SELFISH?
I WOULDN'T BE ASKING YOU TO HELP OUT LIKE THIS IF IT WASN'T IMPORTANT.
I'M NOT POWER TRIPPING, RAPH—THIS IS ABOUT SURVIVAL.
YOU LITTLE—
YOU KNOW WHAT, BOY SCOUT—IT'S BEEN ABOUT SURVIVAL FOR ME FROM DAY ONE, WHEN I MUTATED ALL BY MYSELF IN THAT STINKIN' ALLEY... NO DAMN CLUE WHO OR WHAT THE HELL I WAS.
BUT I FIGURED OUT REAL QUICK I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF YOURS TRULY AND FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE WHEN IT FELT LIKE THE WHOLE FREAKIN' WORLD WANTED A PIECE OF ME.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? NONE OF IT'S CHANGED—NOT ONE BIT. AND I'M TIRED, MAN... TIRED OF ALWAYS HAVIN' TO STRUGGLE, TIRED OF ALWAYS HAVIN' TO WATCH MY BACK.
TIRED OF ALL OF IT.
SO IF NOT WANTIN' TO HELP OUT WITH YOUR LITTLE WAR PLANS MAKES ME SELFISH, THEN FINE—THINK WHAT YOU WANT, LEO. YOU'RE WRONG, BUT WHATEVER.
MY CHOICE IS WE ALL GET OUTTA TOWN BEFORE THIS GETS WORSE—NOT JUST ME—BUT IT AIN'T LIKE MY VOTE EVER COUNTED FOR ANYTHING ANYWAY.
I'M OUTTA HERE.
WAIT, RAPH, I DIDN'T MEAN—
DAMMIT.
HEY, WHERE'D RAPH GO?
TOOK OFF. DIDN'T LIKE ME GIVING HIM ORDERS, I GUESS.
DON'T WORRY, DUDE—THAT THING WITH BISHOP REALLY MESSED HIM UP. WE JUST GOTTA GIVE HIM SOME TIME TO DEAL WITH IT.
BUT HE'LL COME THROUGH. HE'S RAPH.
YEAH—I KNOW, MIKE. AND I FEEL BAD FOR HIM. REALLY.
BUT WITH KARAI BREATHING DOWN OUR NECKS RIGHT NOW...

"...I JUST DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT THE TIME HE NEEDS."
HEY, YOU SEEIN' THAT...
BROOKLYN SHORELINE.
HOME OF ANTONIO PUZORELLI.
...THAT WEIRD LIGHT UP THERE?
YEAH. THAT A DRONE?
NAH. DON'T THINK SO.
LOOKS MORE LIKE SOME KINDA...
...BIRD!
SKREE!
BRITT BRRITT
WHAT THE HELL?
GYAAH!

KRASH
NATSU—WITH ME, INTO THE HOUSE.
OCHO—STAY HERE AND HELP KOYA AND BLUDGEON.
WITH PLEASURE.
BLAM
STOP 'EM!
PROTECT THE BOSS!
FUNNY...
BLAM BLAM
SLASH!!
BLAM BLAM
...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING.
UP THE STAIRS! MOVE!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
BLUDDA BUDD BU
BLA BLAM

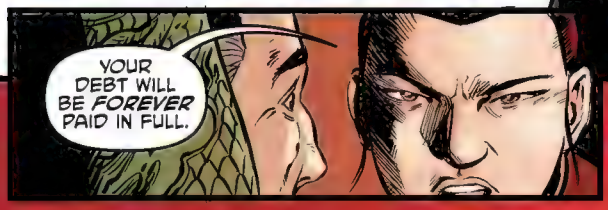

YOU'RE SLOW. TOO MUCH AMERICAN JUNK FOOD.
SHKKKKK
MAYBE. BUT MY *TRIGGER FINGER'S* STILL PLENTY FAST.
BLAM BLAM

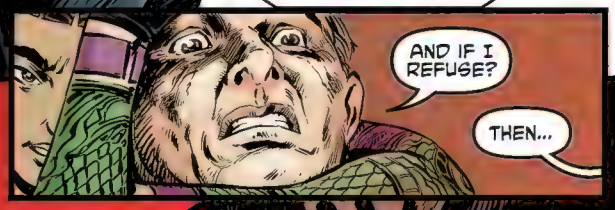
AND WHEN YOU RUN *OUT* OF BULLETS?
EASY.
CLIK
CLIK
STOP THEM, YOU IDIOTS!

FWAK

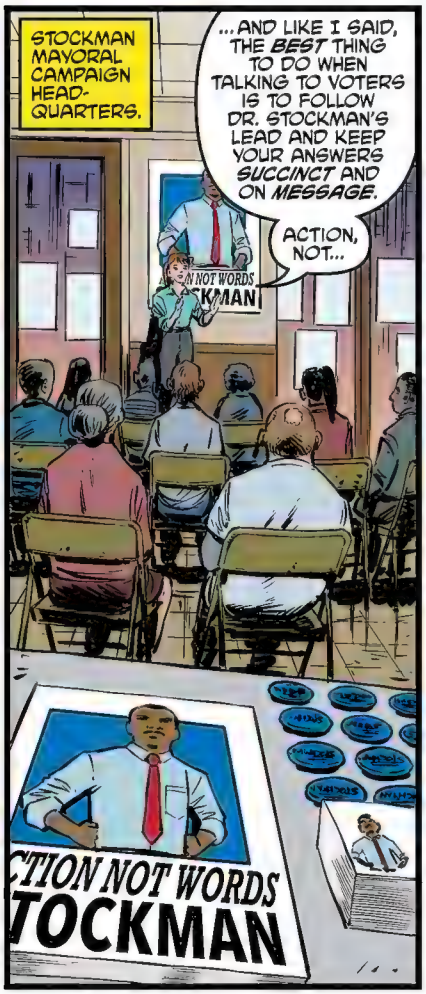
SMASH

I IMPROVISE.
HELLO, ANTONIO.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, KARAI?
OUR TRIBUTE'S PAID AND CURRENT.
I WOULD OFFER YOU A *NEW* BUSINESS PROPOSITION, ANTONIO.
FORGO YOUR LOYALTY TO THE RODENT. JOIN *ME* IN HIS DESTRUCTION AND I SWEAR TO YOU, THE FOOT CLAN WILL *NEVER AGAIN* SEEK TRIBUTE FROM YOUR FAMILY.


YOUR DEBT WILL BE *FOREVER* PAID IN FULL.

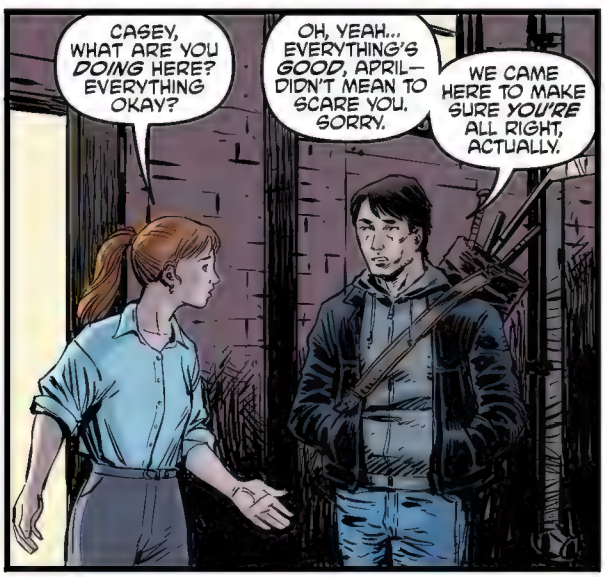

AND IF I REFUSE?
THEN...

...THE *OROKU CLAN* WILL CRUSH *ALL* YOU HOLD PRECIOUS IN THIS WORLD.


STOCKMAN MAYORAL CAMPAIGN HEAD-QUARTERS.
...AND LIKE I SAID, THE *BEST* THING TO DO WHEN TALKING TO VOTERS IS TO FOLLOW DR. STOCKMAN'S LEAD AND KEEP YOUR ANSWERS *SUCCINCT* AND ON *MESSAGE*.
ACTION, NOT...
CTION NOT WORDS
TOCKMAN

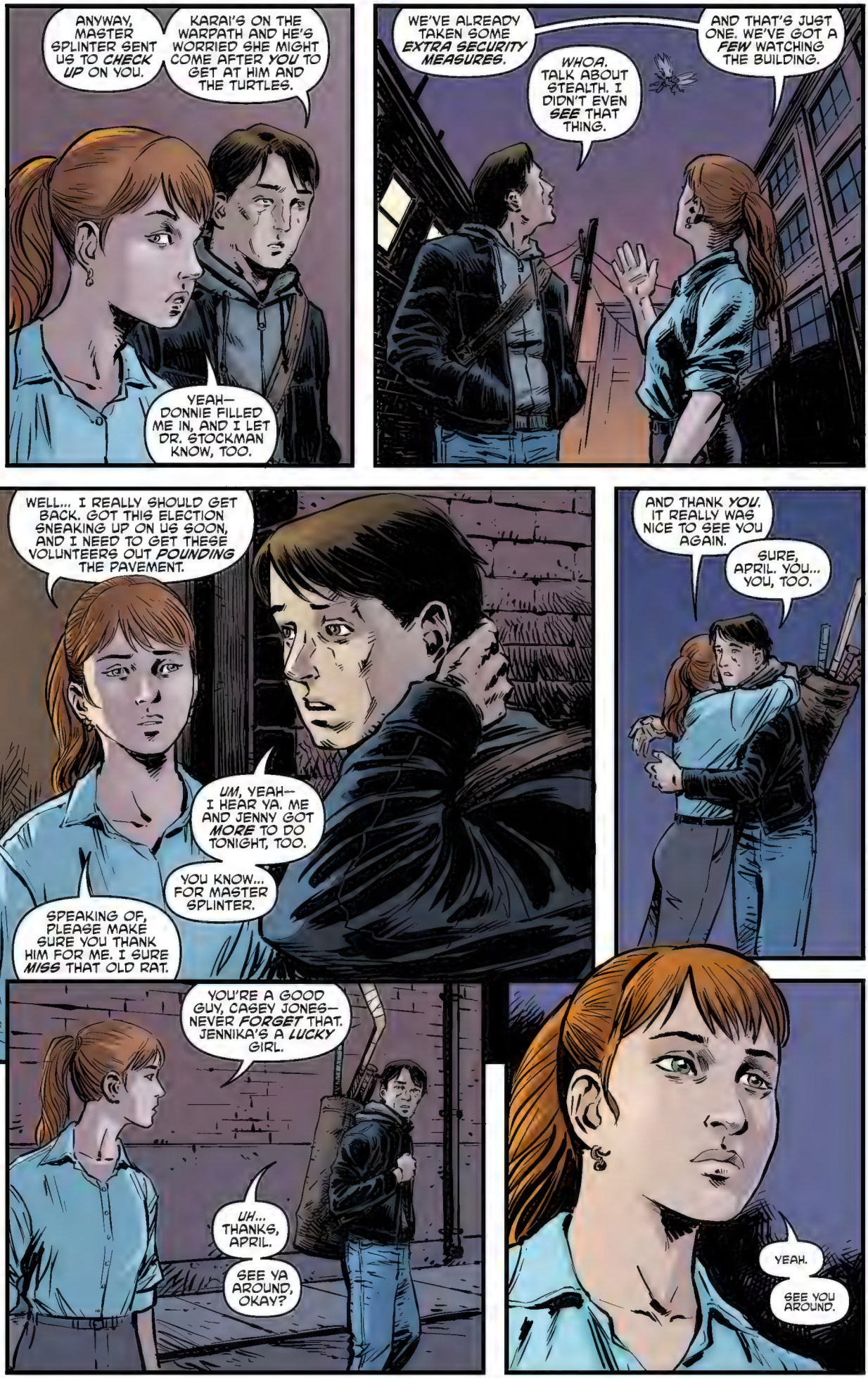
...WORDS.
ACTION NOT
STOCK

STOCK


CASEY, WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE? EVERYTHING OKAY?
OH, YEAH... EVERYTHING'S *GOOD*, APRIL—DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. SORRY.
WE CAME HERE TO MAKE SURE *YOU'RE* ALL RIGHT, ACTUALLY.

"WE"?
UM, YEAH... ME AND JENNY. WE'VE BEEN, *ER*... *WORKIN' TOGETHER* A LOT MORE LATELY.
THE FOOT CLAN AND THE PURPLE DRAGONS, I MEAN.

OH.


ANYWAY, MASTER SPLINTER SENT US TO *CHECK UP* ON YOU.
KARAI'S ON THE WARPATH AND HE'S WORRIED SHE MIGHT COME AFTER *YOU* TO GET AT HIM AND THE TURTLES.
YEAH— DONNIE FILLED ME IN, AND I LET DR. STOCKMAN KNOW, TOO.
WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN SOME *EXTRA SECURITY MEASURES.*
WHOA. TALK ABOUT STEALTH. I DIDN'T EVEN *SEE* THAT THING.
AND THAT'S JUST ONE. WE'VE GOT A *FEW* WATCHING THE BUILDING.
WELL... I REALLY SHOULD GET BACK. GOT THIS ELECTION SNEAKING UP ON US SOON, AND I NEED TO GET THESE VOLUNTEERS OUT *POUNDING* THE PAVEMENT.
UM, YEAH— I HEAR YA. ME AND JENNY GOT *MORE* TO DO TONIGHT, TOO.
YOU KNOW... FOR MASTER SPLINTER.
SPEAKING OF, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU THANK HIM FOR ME. I SURE *MISS* THAT OLD RAT.
AND THANK *YOU*. IT REALLY WAS NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SURE, APRIL. YOU... YOU, TOO.
YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, CASEY JONES— NEVER *FORGET* THAT. JENNIKA'S A *LUCKY* GIRL.
UH... THANKS, APRIL.
SEE YA AROUND, OKAY?
YEAH.
SEE YOU AROUND.

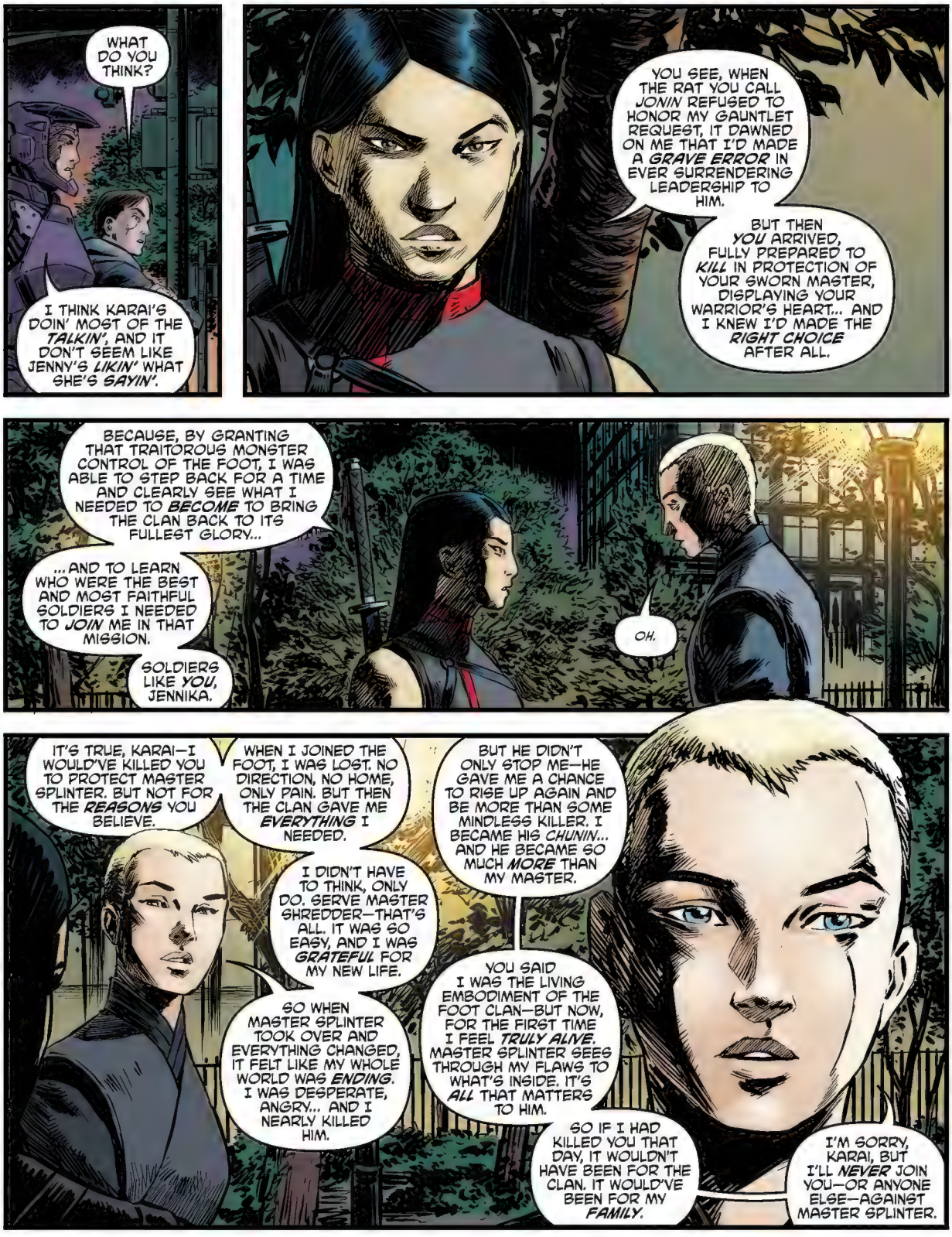
HOW WAS SHE?
GOOD. SHE WAS GOOD.
THINGS WENT... GOOD.
I'M GLAD.
SO, I GUESS WE SHOULD CHECK ON THE *TURTLES* NEXT, *HUH?*
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.
THEN MAYBE AFTER THAT, WE CAN—
CHUNK
WHAT THE—?!
WHERE'D *THAT* COME FROM?
UP THERE, I THINK.
BUT I DON'T SEE ANYONE.
LOTTA GOOD STOCKMAN'S FLYING BUG ROBOTS DID.
HEY, WAIT— THERE'S A *NOTE.*
WHAT'S IT SAY?
IT'S FROM KARAI. SHE WANTS TO MEET.
WITH WHO?
ME.

MUTANIMALS HQ.
HALT!
CH-CHINK
YO... IT'S COOL. JUST TAKE IT EASY. I—
FRIEND OR FOE?
DEPENDIN' ON HIS MOOD, I'D SAY HE'S A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH.
HOB?
STAND DOWN, HERMAN.
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?
WE'RE SETTING UP A SECURITY PERIMETER. TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR MANNED WATCH, CAMERAS, CLAYMORES, A SNIPER'S NEST ON THE ROOF, THINGS OF THAT NATURE.
YEAH—A LITTLE WELCOMIN' PACKAGE IN CASE THOSE E.P.F. SCUM DECIDE TO DROP IN UNINVITED.
SPEAKIN' OF, WHY ARE YOU HERE, TURTLE?
SAME AS YOU—MAKIN' SURE WE GOT A SAFE ZONE BETWEEN THE LAIR AND HERE.
SAFE ZONE? THAT WHAT YOU'RE CALLIN' IT?
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T HEAR RAY, AIN'T NOTHIN' SAFE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOIN' HERE.
WHATEVER, FLEABAG. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

MAYBE. LEO PUT YOU UP TO THIS? 'CAUSE SAFE SEEMS MORE *HIS* KINDA THING THAN YOURS.
I FIGURED *YOU'D* BE TAKIN' MORE OF A, I DUNNO... *AGGRESSIVE APPROACH* THESE DAYS.
YEAH? WHY YOU FIGURE *THAT?*
JUST A FEELIN'. YOU AIN'T BEEN YOUR NORMAL ANNOYIN' SELF. SOMETHIN'S *DIFFERENT.*
I SPENT ENOUGH TIME GETTIN' TORTURED AT STOCKGEN TO HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA SOMETHIN' *BAD* HAPPENED TO YOU RECENTLY.
ONLY *QUESTION* I GOT IS...
...WHAT'RE *YOU* GONNA *DO* ABOUT IT?
I—
BZZZ BZZZ
HOLD ON.
DAMN. WHAT NOW?
Leo
All hands. Lair. Now. 911.
I GOTTA GO. TRY NOT TO BLOW YOURSELVES UP.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US—YOU JUST GO AHEAD AND RUN HOME TO THAT *BROTHER* OF YOURS.
YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND *US...*
...WHEN YOU'RE DONE PLAYIN' IT *SAFE.*

I DON'T KNOW— THIS SEEMS DANGEROUS TO ME. YOU'LL BE WAY TOO *EXPOSED*, JENNY.
POSSIBLY...
...BUT I THINK THE RISK'S *WORTH IT*, LEO.
WHAT RISK?
FINALLY.
BITE ME, LEO.
SO, SOMEONE GONNA TELL ME WHAT THE *HELL'S* GOIN' ON? WHAT'S THE BIG EMERGENCY?
AND?
IT'S KARAI, RAPH. SHE WANTS TO MEET WITH JENNIKA ON NEUTRAL GROUND TO DISCUSS A *TRUCE*. HUMANS ONLY.
AND NONE OF *US* THINKS IT'S A GOOD IDEA TRUSTIN' KARAI. BUT *JENNY* STILL WANTS TO DO IT.
LOOK—I APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S *CONCERN*. I DON'T TOTALLY TRUST KARAI, EITHER.
BUT I ALSO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT HER *HONOR* IS TO HER—IT'S A BIG REASON WE'RE IN THIS MESS—SO I THINK SHE'LL *KEEP* HER WORD. AND IF THERE'S *ANY CHANCE* I CAN HELP END THIS THING PEACEFULLY, I'VE *GOTTA* TAKE IT.
BESIDES, SHE *DID* SAY HUMANS ONLY, WHICH MEANS I CAN BRING CASEY AND ANGEL *WITH* ME. JUST IN CASE.
AND MAYBE THAT'S NOT *ALL*. THE VAN'S GOT SURVEILLANCE AND CLOAKING TECH BUILT IN NOW. WE'LL HAVE *STEALTH* ON OUR SIDE.
THE REST OF US CAN KEEP AN *EYE* ON THINGS FROM A DISTANCE AND KARAI WON'T EVER HAVE TO KNOW.
OKAY—I *STILL* DON'T LIKE IT, BUT JENNY'S RIGHT. WE'VE *GOTTA* TAKE A SHOT.
BUT AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE—THE *VERY FIRST SIGN*—WE *ABORT* THE MISSION AND GET THE HELL OUTTA THERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KARAI'S UP TO, BUT ONE THING'S *ALWAYS* FOR SURE WHEN IT COMES TO HER FAMILY—

"—IT'S NEVER JUST A WALK IN THE PARK."
THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO MEET ME, JENNIKA...
FOR DRIVE AND E. 36TH STREET.
...YOU WERE ALWAYS ONE OF MASTER SHREDDER'S MOST LOYAL SOLDIERS AND, AS SUCH, I FEEL YOU'VE EARNED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BOTH YOUR PAST—AND YOUR FUTURE—WITH THE FOOT CLAN.
THANK YOU, KARAI, BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I THOUGHT THIS MEETING WAS TO NEGOTIATE A TRUCE.
IT IS. BUT PERHAPS NOT IN THE WAY YOU EXPECTED.
WHAT'S HAPPENING, DONNIE—
—CAN YOU SEE JENNY AND THE OTHERS?
YEAH, I CAN SEE THEM FINE, LEO—AND THEY CAN'T SEE US.
BUT WE'RE PUSHING THE AUXILIARY POWER RESERVES TO THE MAX USING THE EXTERIOR CLOAK, SO NOBODY OPEN ANY DOORS OR TRY TO DRIVE THIS THING...
"...OR WE'LL END UP MORE EXPOSED THAN JENNY."
DO YOU RECALL WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO THE FOOT CLAN? WE BROUGHT YOU IN FROM NOTHING, TRAINED YOU, RAISED YOU UP... UNTIL YOU BECAME ONE OF OUR MOST LETHAL ASSASSINS.
UNDER YOUR HOOD AND BEHIND YOUR TEKO KAGI... AND THROUGH YOUR UNQUESTIONING LOYALTY... YOU WERE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE TRUE SPIRIT OF OUR CLAN.
AND YOU CAN BE SO AGAIN.
BUT... I'M STILL LOYAL TO THE FOOT CLAN.
YES. I KNOW YOU BELIEVE THAT, JENNIKA.
BUT YOU'RE WRONG. AND SO WAS I.


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK KARAI'S DOIN' MOST OF THE *TALKIN'*, AND IT DON'T SEEM LIKE JENNY'S *LIKIN'* WHAT SHE'S *SAYIN'*.
YOU SEE, WHEN THE RAT YOU CALL *JONIN* REFUSED TO HONOR MY GAUNTLET REQUEST, IT DAWNED ON ME THAT I'D MADE A *GRAVE ERROR* IN EVER SURRENDERING LEADERSHIP TO HIM.
BUT THEN *YOU* ARRIVED, FULLY PREPARED TO *KILL* IN PROTECTION OF YOUR SWORN MASTER, DISPLAYING YOUR WARRIOR'S HEART... AND I KNEW I'D MADE THE *RIGHT CHOICE* AFTER ALL.
BECAUSE, BY GRANTING THAT TRAITOROUS MONSTER CONTROL OF THE FOOT, I WAS ABLE TO STEP BACK FOR A TIME AND CLEARLY SEE WHAT I NEEDED TO *BECOME* TO BRING THE CLAN BACK TO ITS FULLEST GLORY...
...AND TO LEARN WHO WERE THE BEST AND MOST FAITHFUL SOLDIERS I NEEDED TO *JOIN* ME IN THAT MISSION.
SOLDIERS LIKE *YOU*, JENNIKA.
OH.
IT'S TRUE, KARAI—I WOULD'VE KILLED YOU TO PROTECT MASTER SPLINTER. BUT NOT FOR THE *REASONS* YOU BELIEVE.
WHEN I JOINED THE FOOT, I WAS LOST. NO DIRECTION, NO HOME, ONLY PAIN. BUT THEN THE CLAN GAVE ME *EVERYTHING* I NEEDED.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK, ONLY DO. SERVE MASTER SHREDDER—THAT'S ALL. IT WAS SO EASY, AND I WAS *GRATEFUL* FOR MY NEW LIFE.
SO WHEN MASTER SPLINTER TOOK OVER AND EVERYTHING CHANGED, IT FELT LIKE MY WHOLE WORLD WAS *ENDING*. I WAS DESPERATE, ANGRY... AND I NEARLY KILLED HIM.
BUT HE DIDN'T ONLY STOP ME—HE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO RISE UP AGAIN AND BE MORE THAN SOME MINDLESS KILLER. I BECAME HIS *CHUNIN*... AND HE BECAME SO MUCH *MORE* THAN MY MASTER.
YOU SAID I WAS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE FOOT CLAN—BUT NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME I FEEL *TRULY ALIVE*. MASTER SPLINTER SEES THROUGH MY FLAWS TO WHAT'S INSIDE. IT'S *ALL* THAT MATTERS TO HIM.
SO IF I HAD KILLED YOU THAT DAY, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FOR THE CLAN. IT WOULD'VE BEEN FOR MY *FAMILY*.
I'M SORRY, KARAI, BUT I'LL *NEVER* JOIN YOU—OR ANYONE ELSE—AGAINST MASTER SPLINTER.
HM. BUT WOULD YOU *DIE* FOR HIM?
IN A *HEARTBEAT*.

SLICE
SO BE IT.
JENNY!
NO!

GRAHHH!
SO. WHO WILL DIE *NEXT* FOR THE RODENT?
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
OH, *SHUT* THE HELL UP!
WHOOO
UFF!
GET JENNY *OUTTA* HERE, CASEY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF *THESE* TWO!
C'MON, JENNY. IT'S GONNA BE OKAY.
CASEY... WHA... WHAT HAPPENED...?
COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO *HELP* ANGEL!
RAPH! BRING THE VAN!
HURRY, DUDE!
CLOAKING'S GONE.
SO?
WHO'S *HIDIN'*?
SCREECH

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS— WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED.
YEAH. DON'T BE STUPID.
YES. THERE HAS BEEN STUPIDITY HERE TONIGHT— BUT NOT MINE.
KA-KOOM
AGH!
I TOLD YOU WAR WAS COMING. AND NOW I'VE DRAWN FIRST BLOOD.
TELL YOUR MASTER—
—HIS PRECIOUS CHUNIN WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
DAMMIT! SHE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
ZZAP
FORGET THEM! WE'VE GOTTA GET JENNIKA TO A HOSPITAL!

CAREFUL, CAREFUL... SHE'S REALLY BLEEDIN'.
HURTS... CASEY...
WE NEED TO GET *PRESSURE* ON THAT WOUND, FAST!
LET'S GO! *LET'S GO!*
COME ON, ALOPEX! *HURRY!*
RIGHT *BEHIND* YOU!
HOW IS SHE?
I DUNNO, BUT IT LOOKS *REAL BAD*, ANGEL.
BELLEVUE'S THE *CLOSEST* HOSPITAL. HEAD SOUTH ON THE FDR, RAPH!
WE GOTTA GO *NOW!* SHE'S ALREADY LOST *A LOT* OF BLOOD!
GUN IT, RAPH!
GUNNIN' IT.
YANK
WAIT!
LOOK!

DON, IF YOU'VE GOT ANY MORE FANCY GADGETS WE CAN USE, NOW'D BE A GOOD TIME.
NOTHING. WE USED UP ALL THE AUXILIARY POWER WITH THE CLOAK.
WELL, GUESS IT'S THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY THEN.
YOU EVER PLAY CHICKEN, MIKE?
WHAT?
VRRRR
WAIT... DUDE! WHAT ARE YOU—
VUMMM
JUMP!
CHICKENS.
YOU HEARD DONNIE, RAPH—HEAD SOUTH...
...AND DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by DAVE WACHTER

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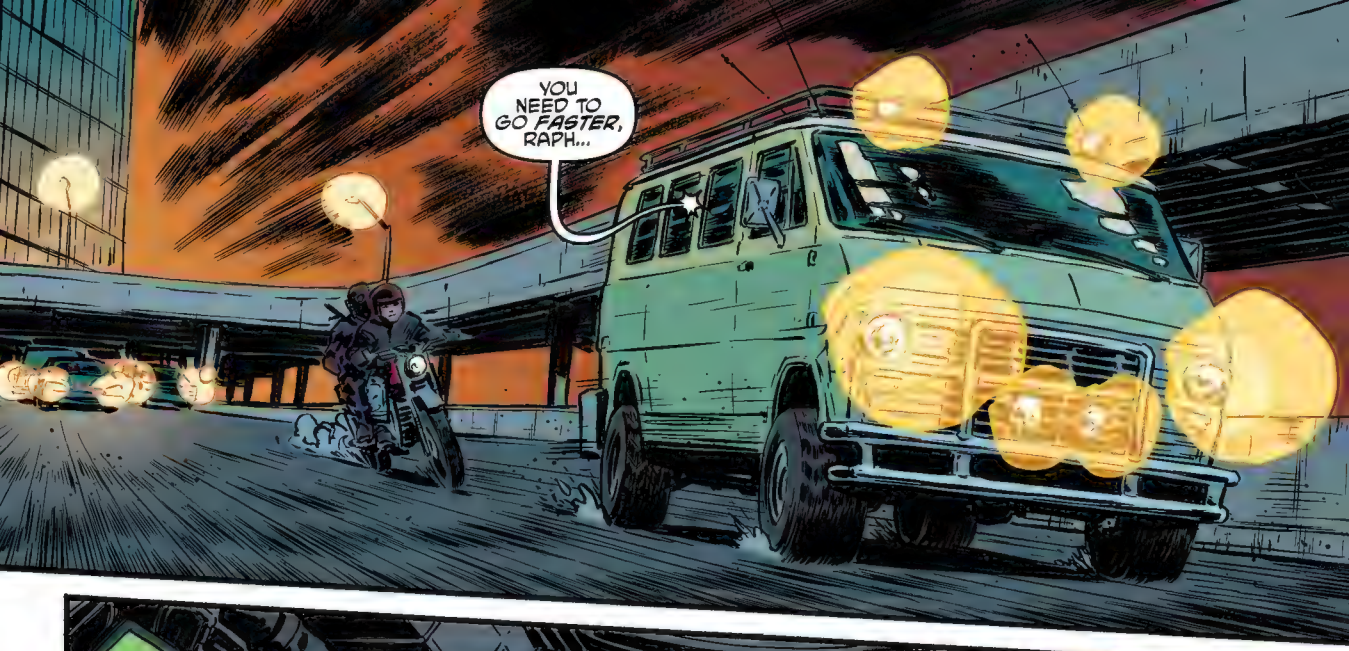

YOU NEED TO GO *FASTER*, RAPH...

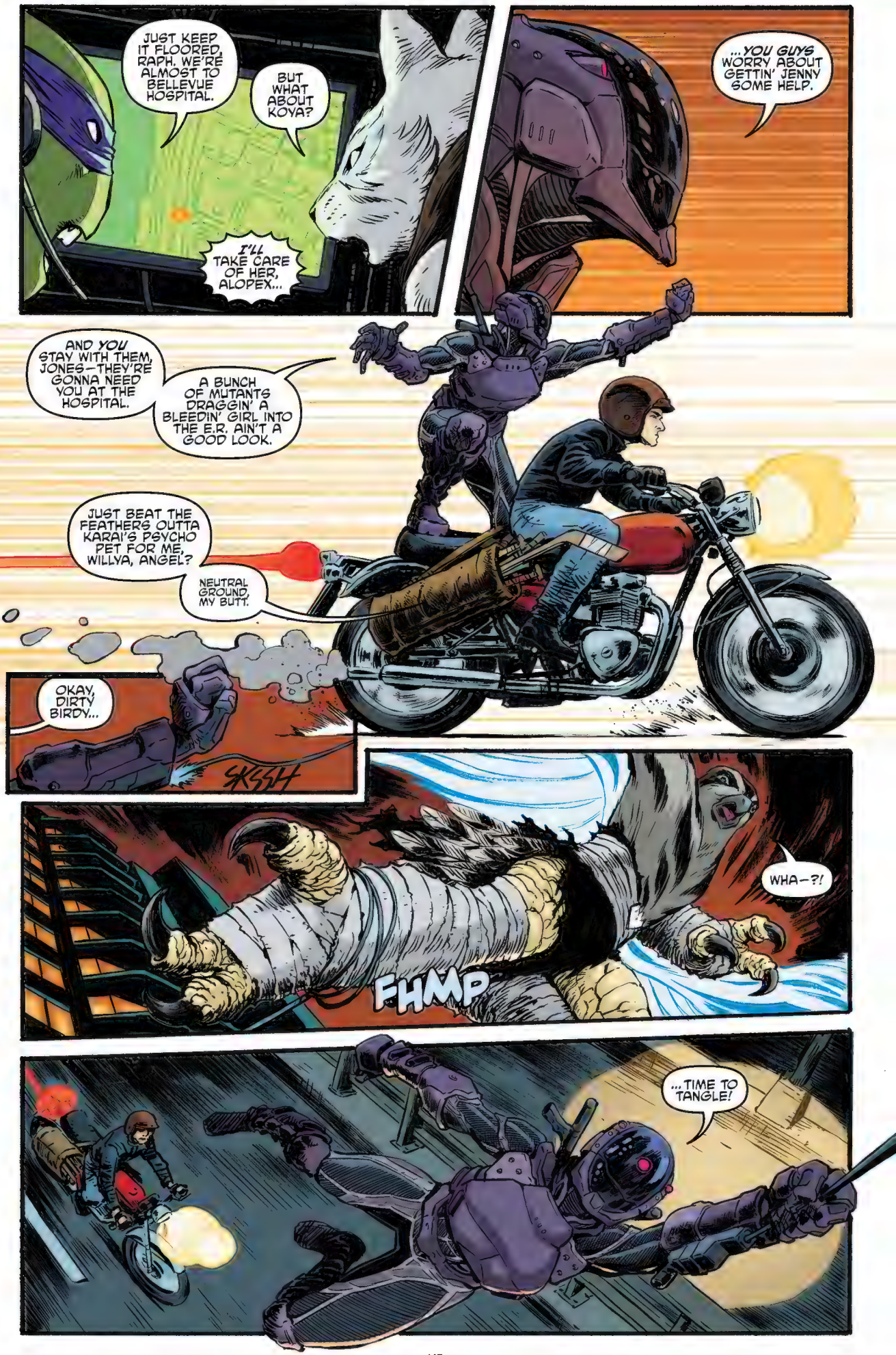
...'CAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY.

YOU SURE, DON?
DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS...

...LOOK.

OH, NO...

"....KOYA."
SKREEEE!
DONNIE'S RIGHT, RAPH— YOU NEED TO GO FASTER.
JENNIKA'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD ALREADY.
SO... COLD...
I'VE ALREADY GOT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL—
—BUT THIS OLD HEAP'S TOO WEIGHED DOWN WITH ALL OF DONNIE'S GEEK GADGETS AND ALL OF US TO GO ANY FASTER. NEXT TIME, PUT SOME ROCKETS IN THIS THING.
GO RIGHT, DUDE!
YOUR STINKIN' BACKSEAT DRIVIN' AIN'T HELPIN' ANY, EITHER, MIKE.


JUST KEEP IT FLOORED, RAPH. WE'RE ALMOST TO BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.
BUT WHAT ABOUT KOYA?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER, ALOPEX...
...YOU GUYS WORRY ABOUT GETTIN' JENNY SOME HELP.
AND YOU STAY WITH THEM, JONES—THEY'RE GONNA NEED YOU AT THE HOSPITAL.
A BUNCH OF MUTANTS DRAGGIN' A BLEEDIN' GIRL INTO THE E.R. AIN'T A GOOD LOOK.
JUST BEAT THE FEATHERS OUTTA KARAI'S PSYCHO PET FOR ME, WILLYA, ANGEL?
NEUTRAL GROUND, MY BUTT.
OKAY, DIRTY BIRDY...
SKSSH
WHA—?!
FHMP
...TIME TO TANGLE!

NO!
WHOA, NOW, NELLIE! YOU'RE GOIN' THE WRONG WAY!
ZZAP
ARE YOU INSANE?!
NOPE. I'M JUST DRIVIN' THE BUS.
GyAH!
AND THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF.
OKAY, DONNIE—KOYA'S DOWN. GET OUR GIRL TO THE HOSPITAL.
COPY THAT, ANGEL.
FWUMP
WHERE... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM...?
AWW... DID THE POOR BIRDY MISS WIDDLE OL' ME WHEN SHE WAS ALL FOCUSED ON THOSE BIG, BAD TURTLES?
THAT'S OKAY. IT HAPPENS TO ME A LOT.
SHMP
I'M NOBODY!

YOU HEARD ANGEL, RAPH—HURRY UP!
AND YOU HEARD ME, DON—I'M PUSHIN' THIS THING TO THE LIMIT...
GO LEFT! LEFT!
...BUT IT STILL FEELS LIKE WE'RE DRIVIN' THROUGH WATER.
WAIT. I THINK I SEE THE HOSP!—
LOOK OUT!
CRAP!
SKKK-RRHH
"WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY'D WE STOP?!"
WHOAA!
YOU HURT KOYA! NOW I'M GONNA DESTROY YOU!
IT'S BLUDGEON, LEO, AND HE'S GOT CASEY!
NOT FOR LONG.
TAKE OVER, MARIO ANDRETTI—SEE IF YOU CAN GET THIS NERD TUB TO GO ANY FASTER.

I'VE GOT A FISH TO FILLET!
SHNK
GRAGH!
MIKEY, RAPH AND CASEY CAN TAKE CARE OF BLUDGEON!
GET THIS THING MOVING!
YOU GOT IT, BRO!
PLEASE... HURRY.
C'MON, CASE, GET UP.
BUT... JENNY—
HURTS! HURTS!
MY BROS GOT HER—SHE'S GOOD TO GO.
ME AND YOU GOT OTHER BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.
SCREEECHH
HE'S A PRETTY BIG BOY. THINK WE CAN TAKE 'IM?
THAT EVER STOP US BEFORE?
NOPE.
WELL...
...WHY START BREAKIN' TRADITION NOW?!
"UH, GUYS, WE GOT TROUBLE..."

...I DON'T THINK KOYA AND BLUDGEON ARE THE *ONLY ONES* KARAI SENT AFTER US.
NO. THEY WEREN'T.
EMERGENCY
F.D.N.Y.
AMBULANCE

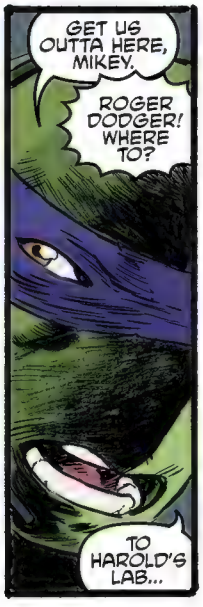
THIS PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH KARAI'S GOONS.
IT'S AN *AMBUSH*.

THEN WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE—WE'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO *FIGHT* THROUGH IT.
IT... IT WON'T MATTER, LEO. JENNIKA'S PULSE IS SO *WEAK* RIGHT NOW. IF WE HAVE TO FIGHT, I... I DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT IN TIME.
NOT TO MENTION CASEY'S NOT HERE, AND THE RISK TO CIVILIANS—

NO! I WON'T LET JENNY DIE WITHOUT TRYING—EVEN IF THAT MEANS EXPOSING OURSELVES!
I'M GONNA CLEAR A PATH TO THE E.R. GET READY TO FOLLOW.
LEO... WAIT.

IF YOU AND ALOPEX CAN CREATE A DIVERSION AND KEEP THESE JERKS OCCUPIED, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE TO GET JENNIKA INSIDE THE HOSPITAL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, I THINK I KNOW *ANOTHER WAY* TO SAVE JENNIKA. IT'S RISKY BUT... IT MIGHT BE HER ONLY CHANCE.

THEN STOP THINKING AND START DOING, DONNIE.
WE'LL GIVE YOU THE TIME YOU NEED. YOU JUST SAVE JENNY'S LIFE, WHATEVER IT TAKES.


GET US OUTTA HERE, MIKEY.
ROGER DODGER! WHERE TO?
TO HAROLD'S LAB...

"...AND DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING."
WAK
KRAK
HAROLD'S LAB? WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO THERE, DUDE?
LIKE LEO SAID—
—WHATEVER IT TAKES.
"THE OTHERS ARE DOING THEIR PART TO KEEP JENNIKA ALIVE..."
...NOW I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DO MINE.

art by DAN DUNCAN

art by DAVE WACHTER

ISSUE #94

CAPTAIN MITCHELL, THIS IS AGENT BISHOP...
WHAT'S YOUR STATUS? OVER.
NO MOVEMENT, SIR. NOTHING.
MY GUYS HAVE THE PLACE SURROUNDED, BUT IT SEEMS *EMPTY*. OVER.
WELL, MY FRIEND, WHAT SAY *YOU*?
YOU'VE *LED* US HERE, SO I LEAVE THE NEXT STEP TO YOU, METALHEAD.
FORWARD OR BACK?
STAND BY. SCANNING SUBTERRANEAN LIVING QUARTERS FOR BIOLOGICAL HEAT SIGNATURES.
CONFIRMING CAPTAIN MITCHELL'S ASSESSMENT. NO MUTANT PRESENCE AT THIS TIME.
SOLE BIOLOGICAL ENTITY IS A SMALL REPTILIAN CREATURE. CLASSIFICATION: NON-MUTANT AND HARMLESS.

ORDER YOUR SOLDIERS TO RETREAT.
THE SECURITY SYSTEMS ACTIVATED WITHIN WILL INEVITABLY ALERT OUR QUARRY TO OUR PRESENCE, AS WELL AS OUR INTENTIONS.
SO BE IT.
CAPTAIN MITCHELL, PULL BACK AND AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS.
ROGER THAT, SIR.
SO, THAT OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T TURN OUT QUITE AS *WORTHWHILE* AS PLANNED.
THE ONLY **PLAN** IS TO SEEK OUT THE MUTANTS USING LOGICAL METHODOLOGY.
THIS IS WHERE THEY RESIDE AND SPEND THE MAJORITY OF THEIR EXISTENCE. THEREFORE, LOGIC DICTATED THIS IS WHERE WE SHOULD **BEGIN** OUR SEARCH.
NOW, WE MOVE ON TO THE **NEXT** LOGICAL LOCATION.
FINE. YOU'RE THE *EXPERT* AFTER ALL. THOUGH I HAVE TO QUESTION YOUR DECISION TO LEAVE WITHOUT EVEN A CURSORY INVESTIGATION.
I'M CONFIDENT THE GOOD CAPTAIN AND HIS MEN COULD HAVE *OVERCOME* THE SECURITY WITHIN.
YOU ARE MISTAKEN— RETREAT WAS THE CORRECT STRATEGY.
YOU MUST NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE TECHNICAL ACUMEN OF MY PRIMARY ADVERSARIES.
PRIMARY?
AFFIRMATIVE. THE MUTANT TURTLE CALLED **DONATELLO**...

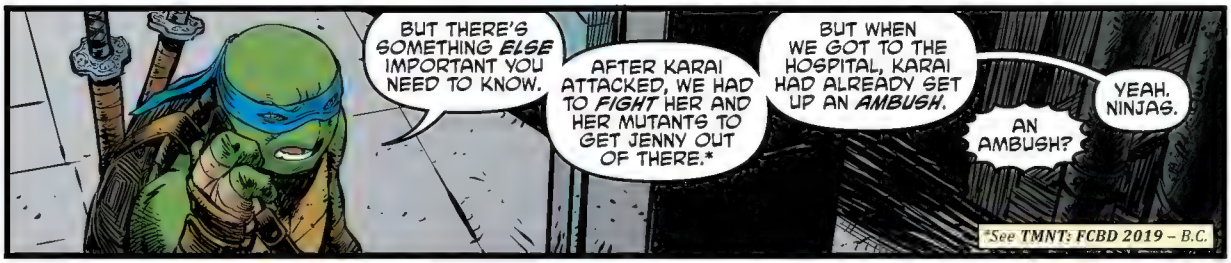
"...AND THE HUMAN LILJA."
HAROLD! LOOK OUT!
WHA-?!
SKKRRRCHH
DONATELLO! WHAT IN BLAZES—
NO TIME! WE NEED TO GET JENNIKA INTO THE INFIRMARY— STAT!
JENNIKA? WHO'S—
—OH.
YOU BETTER GO GET THAT GURNEY, HON.
UH... YEAH. RIGHT.

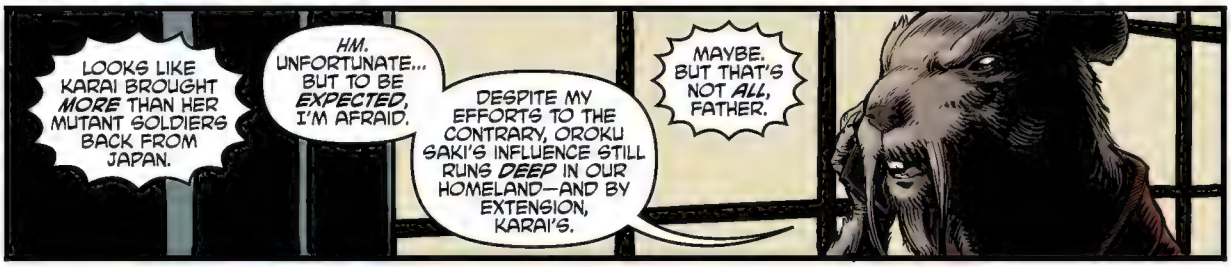
MIKEY—HELP LIBBY AND HAROLD!
I'VE GOTTA CALL APRIL.
ON IT!
BZZZ
HRNN...?
DONNIE? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
NOT EVEN CLOSE.
IT'S JENNIKA. KARAI STABBED HER AND SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE.
I GOT HER TO HAROLD'S LAB BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME SHE'S GOT LEFT.
HAROLD'S LAB? WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE HER TO THE HOSPITAL?
LONG STORY.
LISTEN, APRIL, I WAS THINKING—THAT TIME WE WERE IN NORTHAMPTON... THE THING YOU DID FOR YOUR DAD...
HURRY, HAROLD. SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
YOU MEAN, THE TEA?
I'M NOT BLIND, WOMAN.
YOU—OTHER TURTLE! GET THOSE DOORS OPEN!

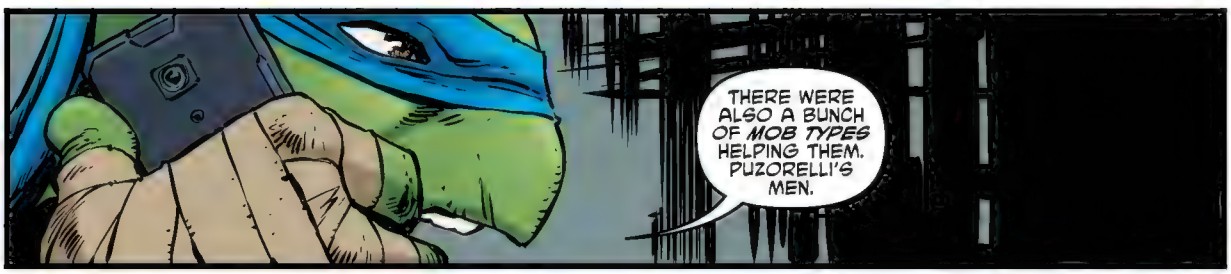
YEAH—THE TEA. I DON'T THINK GETTING JENNY TO THE HOSPITAL WOULD'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE. BUT MAYBE...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, DONNIE. IT'S A LONG SHOT... BUT MAYBE THE *ONLY* ONE.
BUT HERE'S THE THING...
...YOU'RE GONNA NEED *LINDSEY'S* HELP TO PULL IT OFF.
LINDSEY? HOW AM I—
VRRMMM
WHERE IS SHE?!
DONNIE, IS THAT—
I'LL CALL YOU RIGHT BACK, APRIL!
MAN, I'M GLAD TO SEE *YOU* GUYS. WHAT HAPPENED WITH BLUDGEON?
COPS SHOWED UP ON THE FDR AND THAT STUPID FISH DECIDED TO GO FOR A *SWIM* INSTEAD OF MESSIN' WITH THEM. KOYA *TOOK OFF*, TOO.
ANGEL TOLD US YOU CAME *HERE*. SHE'S RIGHT BEHIND US WITH LEO AND ALOPEX.
WHO CARES?! WHERE'S *JENNY*, DAMMIT?
SHE'S WITH HAROLD AND LIBBY, CASEY. THEY'RE *STABILIZING* HER. BUT THEY'RE ONLY GONNA BE ABLE TO DO SO MUCH.
WAIT... WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'?
I'M SAYING WE'RE GONNA NEED *HELP*. FROM LINDSEY.
LINDSEY? *MUTANIMAL* LINDSEY?

EXACTLY. WE NEED TO GET HER HERE AS *FAST* AS WE CAN. APRIL THINKS SHE MIGHT BE JENNY'S ONLY HOPE.
TAKE THE VAN AND GO GET LINDSEY. RIGHT NOW.
BUT...
C'MON, CASE, LET'S GO. I'LL DRIVE—
"—I KNOW A *SHORTCUT*."
DONNIE, WAS THAT RAPH AND CASEY?
UH-HUH.
WHERE'RE THEY *GOIN'* SO DAMN FAST?
WHERE?
"TO GET THE HELP JENNY NEEDS TO *LIVE*."
PLEASE, SAVE HER. SHE'S... SHE'S LIKE ONE OF OUR—
YOUR FAMILY?
YEAH. *HOW'D* YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE, IF SHE WASN'T...
...SHE WOULDN'T BE *IN* THIS MESS.

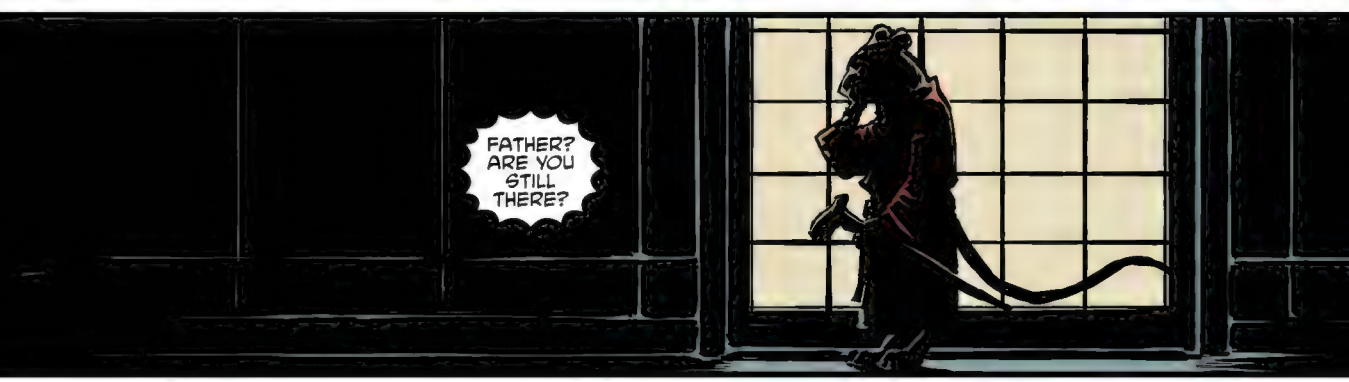
MASTER SPLINTER, PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
...BUT IT IS YOUR SON, LEONARDO. HE HAS *URGENT NEWS* REGARDING YOUR *CHUNIN*.
JENNIKA?
HAI.
VERY WELL. I WILL SPEAK *PRIVATELY* TO MY SON IN MY QUARTERS.
SEE TO THE CHILDREN WHILE I AM AWAY, YUMIKO. THEIR SAFETY IS OUR *MOST URGENT* PRIORITY.
LEONARDO, WHAT IS IT? HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
YES, FATHER. SOMETHING *BAD*.
WE MET *SECRETLY* WITH KARAI TONIGHT TO TRY AND *STOP* THIS WAR.
BUT THINGS WENT SOUTH FAST AND KARAI *STABBED* JENNIKA.
ANOTHER SECRET MEETING?
FOOLISH CHILDREN! HAVE I *NOT* TOLD YOU THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH OUR ENEMIES ARE *MINE ALONE* TO UNDERTAKE?
YES, *SENSEI*—AND IT WAS A *HUGE MISTAKE* TO GO BEHIND YOUR BACK AGAIN. WE KNOW THAT NOW.
WE GOT JENNY TO HAROLD'S LAB, AND HE AND LIBBY ARE TAKING CARE OF HER. SHE'S IN ROUGH SHAPE, BUT DONNIE THINKS THERE'S A *WAY* TO SAVE HER.


BUT THERE'S SOMETHING *ELSE* IMPORTANT YOU NEED TO KNOW.
AFTER KARAI ATTACKED, WE HAD TO *FIGHT* HER AND HER MUTANTS TO GET JENNY OUT OF THERE.*
BUT WHEN WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL, KARAI HAD ALREADY SET UP AN *AMBUSH*.
AN AMBUSH?
YEAH. NINJAS.
*See TMNT: FCBD 2019 – B.C.


LOOKS LIKE KARAI BROUGHT *MORE* THAN HER MUTANT SOLDIERS BACK FROM JAPAN.
HM. UNFORTUNATE... BUT TO BE *EXPECTED*, I'M AFRAID.
DESPITE MY EFFORTS TO THE CONTRARY, OROKU SAKI'S INFLUENCE STILL RUNS *DEEP* IN OUR HOMELAND—AND BY EXTENSION, KARAI'S.
MAYBE. BUT THAT'S NOT *ALL*, FATHER.


THERE WERE ALSO A BUNCH OF *MOB TYPES* HELPING THEM. PUZORELLI'S MEN.

I THINK SOME OF THE CRIME FAMILIES HAVE *SWITCHED* SIDES.


FATHER? ARE YOU STILL THERE?

LEONARDO, REMAIN WITH JENNIKA. ASSIST THE LILJAS WITH HER CARE—*WHATEVER* THEY NEED.
I WILL TEND TO *OTHER* MATTERS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENIN' AGAIN, MAN—
—JUST WHEN THINGS FELT LIKE THEY WERE GETTIN' NORMAL.
IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME, BRO.
ONLY NORMAL FOR US IS THAT THINGS ALWAYS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE.
WHEN I SAW KARAI STAB JENNY, I SWEAR, RAPH, IT WAS JUST LIKE... LIKE BEFORE WITH ME AND SHREDDER.*
THE WHOLE THING—IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE.
*See TMNT #22 – B.C.
I'M TELLIN' YOU RIGHT NOW, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO JENNY, THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET WAY FREAKIN' WORSE FOR KARAI.
I HEAR YA.
AND KARAI'S JUST THE START.
JUST ONE MORE SCUM BUCKET THAT NEEDS KICKIN' OVER.
NO MORE WAITIN' AROUND TO GET HURT. HIT THEM FIRST...
AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT.
DAMN STRAIGHT.
"WE'RE HERE."

HOLD UP.
YO, HERMAN, IT'S RAPH AND CASEY. WE NEED TO TALK TO LINDSEY.
RAPHAEL. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, SOLDIER.
JUST IN *TIME*, TOO.
IN TIME FOR WHAT?
HI! I'M PETE!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON, HOB?
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE, TURTLE?
A MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH.
RAPH... LINDSEY. REMEMBER?
I'M RIGHT HERE.
APRIL CALLED AND TOLD ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOUR FRIEND, BUT I'M HAPPY TO TRY.
HOB?
YEAH, SURE—DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO.
NOT LIKE WE NEED ANY EGGHEAD SCIENTISTS WHERE WE'RE GOIN' TONIGHT.
GREAT. LET'S GO.
WE COULD USE SOME MORE SOLDIERS, THOUGH. THE BADASS KIND.
THE KIND THAT WANNA TAKE IT TO THE ENEMY.
THE KIND THAT DON'T BACK DOWN FROM A FIGHT.
WHO'S BACKIN' DOWN?
HEH. FUNNY HOW YOU JUST ASSUMED I WAS TALKIN' BOUT YOU.
CUT THE CRAP, HOB. WHO'RE YOU GOIN' AFTER?

OH, YOU KNOW. JUST SOME *RED FREAK* WHO GETS HER JOLLIES—AND GETS RICH—FROM TORTURIN' MUTANTS LIKE US.
NULL.
YOU'VE HEARD OF HER?
OH, WAIT—THAT'S RIGHT. A LITTLE BIRDY TOLD ME YOU KNOW SOME INSIDE BASEBALL ON THAT PLACE, AND NOT THE *FUN* KIND.*
WELL, YOU AIN'T THE *ONLY ONE*. JUST ASK RAY AND SALLY... AND POOR SEYMOUR HERE.
OL' MADAME NULL REALLY PUT THEM THROUGH THE RINGER BACK IN THE DAY—SO WE FIGURED IT WAS HIGH TIME WE *RETURN* THE FAVOR.
*See TMNT: Universe #19 – B.C.
WHAT ABOUT BISHOP?
OH, I GOT PLANS FOR OUR EPF PAL, DON'T YOU WORRY. AND NOT JUST HIM. BUT YOU GOTTA START *SOMEWHERE*, RIGHT?
ONE MUTANT TORTURE CHAMBER'S AS GOOD AS ANY OTHER.
SO WHAT'S IT *GONNA* BE, RAPH? YOU GONNA *FIGHT*...
...OR YOU GONNA *PLAY NURSE?*
HERE, CASE—YOU GET LINDSEY TO HAROLD'S. I'M STAYIN'.
YOU *SURE*, BRO?
HURT 'EM BEFORE THEY HURT US, RIGHT?
YEAH. RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY, TURTLE. THE *GEEKS'LL* TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FRIEND.
RIGHT NOW, IT'S TIME FOR *US* TO MAKE SOME BAD GUYS *BLEED*.

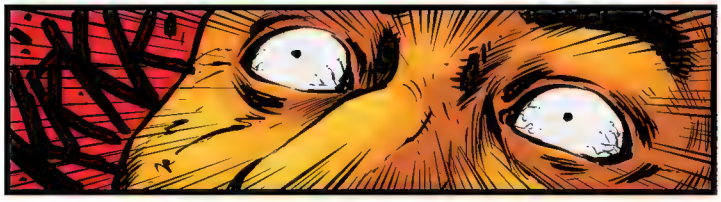
GLRGK!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
HRRRGG...
YOU NEED NOT STRUGGLE. YOUR TIME IS THROUGH, LUPO.

DEATH IS AT HAND.
M... HRGK... MAYBE...

BUT... DON PUZORELLI'S GONNA MAKE SURE... GNF... YOU FOLLOW ME.

NO. IT WILL BE *YOUR MASTER* WHO WILL JOIN YOU. AS WILL *ALL* THOSE WHO HAVE BROKEN THEIR OATH OF LOYALTY TO THE FOOT CLAN.
THEY WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES DESERVING OF *TRAITORS*. STARTING WITH YOU.
DID YOU *TRULY BELIEVE* I HAD FORGOTTEN THE DISRESPECT YOU SHOWED TO MY *CHUNIN*?*
*See TMNT #83 – B.C.

MONGO. NOW.
NO... WAIT—



De Ville's Restaurante

"BETTER WATCH OUT..."

"... 'CAUSE HERE WE COME!"
NULL
NULL
BADOOM
OH, HELL YEAH! TALK ABOUT A BUZZ CUT!
I LOVE THE SMELL OF NULL INDUSTRIES BURNING IN THE MORNING!
YEAH. SMELLS LIKE PINE TREES.

OKAY, SALLY'S GOT THIS PARTY STARTED.
MONDO AND HERMAN— YOU'RE UP.
ROGER DODGER!
ZODI, WHAT IS—
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, MA'AM— WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
YOU NEED TO GET DRESSED AND WE NEED TO GET YOU AWAY FROM THE BUILDING— NOW!
YO! GUARD DUDES! YOU ASLEEP OR WHAT?
COME AND GET ME!
I SAW THE AIRCRAFT.
IS IT THE TRICERATONS AGAIN?
HERE THEY COME!
CRAZY CRUSTACEAN TIME!
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKK
WHOOSH
FIRE IN THE HOLE!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
ALL RIGHT—HERMAN'S *CLEARED* A PATH!
LET'S CLEAN THEIR CLOCKS!
NO—NOT THE TRICERATONS. SOMETHING *WAY MORE* ANNOYING.
WE NEED TO GET TO THE *HELIPAD* BEFORE THAT SHIP GETS BACK.
BAD DEVIL-LADY AT *3:30 O'CLOCK*, SALLY!
MORE LIKE *TWELVE O'CLOCK*, PETE. BUT NOT FOR LONG.
WEAPONS LOCKED AND—*WAIT.*
"THERE'S *MUTANTS* DOWN THERE, TOO."
SORRY, HOB—NULL OR NO NULL, KILLING MUTANTS IS ONE LINE I *WON'T* CROSS.

HERMAN AND RAY! KEEP THOSE 'BOTS *BUSY!*

MONDO AND RAPH— WITH ME!

GIVE THEM ALL YOU'VE *GOT*, HERMAN!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

AND *THEN* SOME, SIR!

WHOOH WHOOH

FZZASH

GOTTA ADMIT, YOU GOT YOUR TEAM FIRIN' ON *ALL CYLINDERS*, HOB.

YO!

LOOKS LIKE WE MADE IT TO THE *NEXT* BOSS LEVEL!

WHAT ARE THESE DUDES— SOME KINDA *FRANKENSTEIN PLANT ZOMBIES!* THEY DON'T EVEN BLEED.

MONDO, WE GOT THESE FREAKS! GET TO THE *SERVER!*

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA

BLAM

SERVER?

SLASH

GENETIC DESIGN AND ENHANCEMENT

LOCKED.

GOOD THING I BROUGHT A *KEY.*

BLAM

YEAH. *THAT'S* NOT TOO GNARLY.

OKAY, TRICERATON TECH—LET'S SEE HOW GOOD OL' MONDO'S REVERSE-ENGINEERING, ALIEN-HACKING SKILLS *REALLY* ARE.

CLICK

DOWNLOADING...

AW, YEAH!

GIVE ME THE *GOOD STUFF.*

WHAT GOOD STUFF?

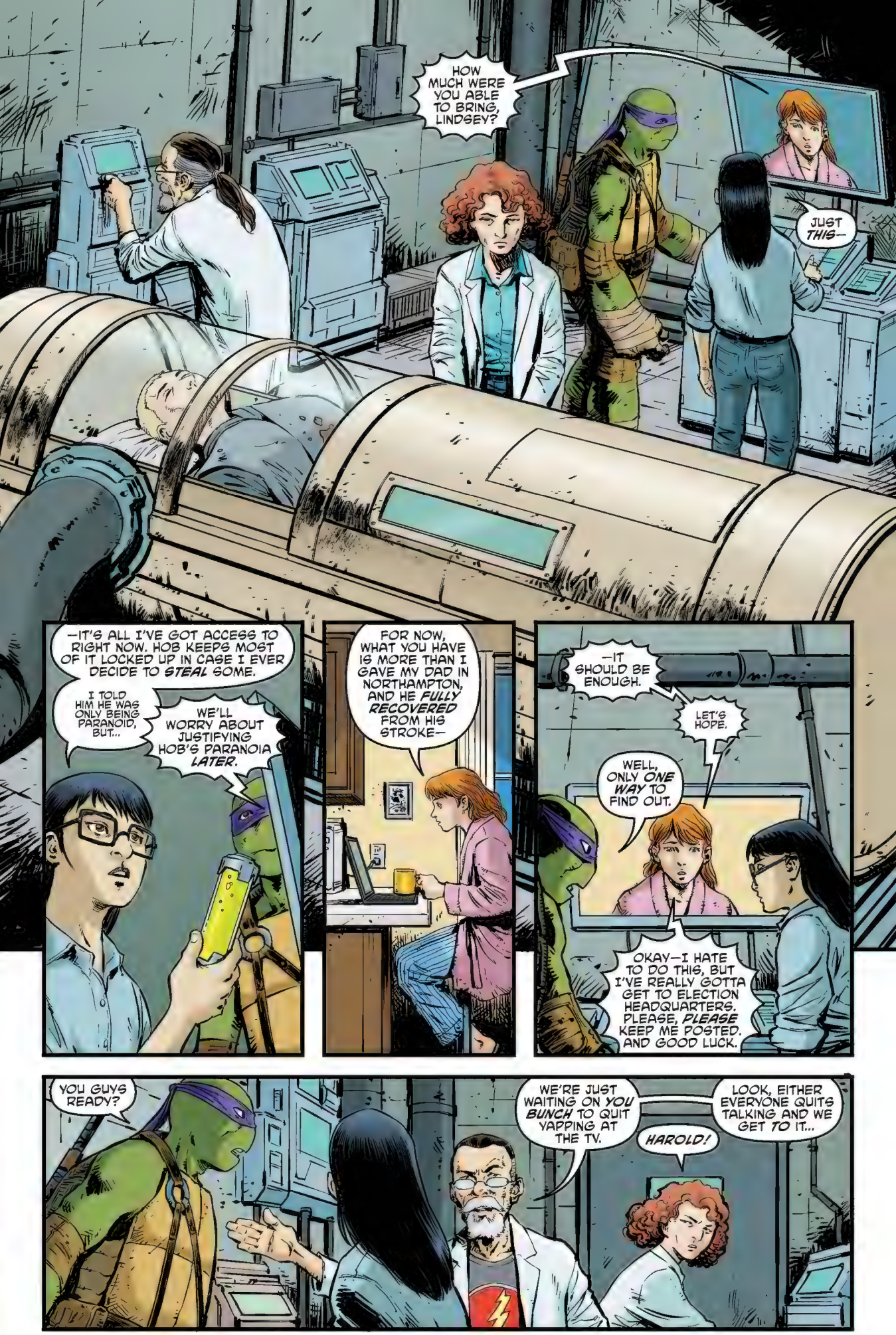
GYAH!

DUDE! CARDIAC ARREST MUCH?
I SAID, WHAT GOOD STUFF?
WHICH GOOD STUFF YOU THINK, TURTLE?
DID YOU THINK THIS WAS ONLY ABOUT KICKIN' ASS AND TAKIN' NAMES TONIGHT?
NAH—BLOWIN' THIS PLACE ALL TO HELL WAS JUST THE CAKE. MONDO'S TAKIN' CARE OF THE CHERRY-ON-TOP PART.
THAT STILL DON'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.
THE GOOD STUFF IS DNA SEQUENCING DATA, RAPHAEL. PROPRIETARY GENETIC DESIGN AND ENHANCEMENT SCHEMATICS, JUST LIKE IT SAYS ON THE DOOR.
YEAH. ALL OF NULL'S DIRTY LITTLE TRADE SECRETS... OURS NOW. WE'RE TAKIN' IT ALL.
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE STEALIN' IT ALL.
NO MORE THAN NULL STOLE THE STUFF FROM US MUTANTS IN THE FIRST PLACE. OR SHOULD I SAY, TORTURED IT OUTTA US?
LOOK AROUND, RAPH— YOU AIN'T BLIND. POOR, HELPLESS MUTANTS, JUST WAITIN' TO BE MASS-PRODUCED FOR HER PROFIT.
SLAVES.
NULL WAS MAKIN' SLAVES, AND I WANNA MAKE SOLDIERS.
QUESTION IS—WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT IN.

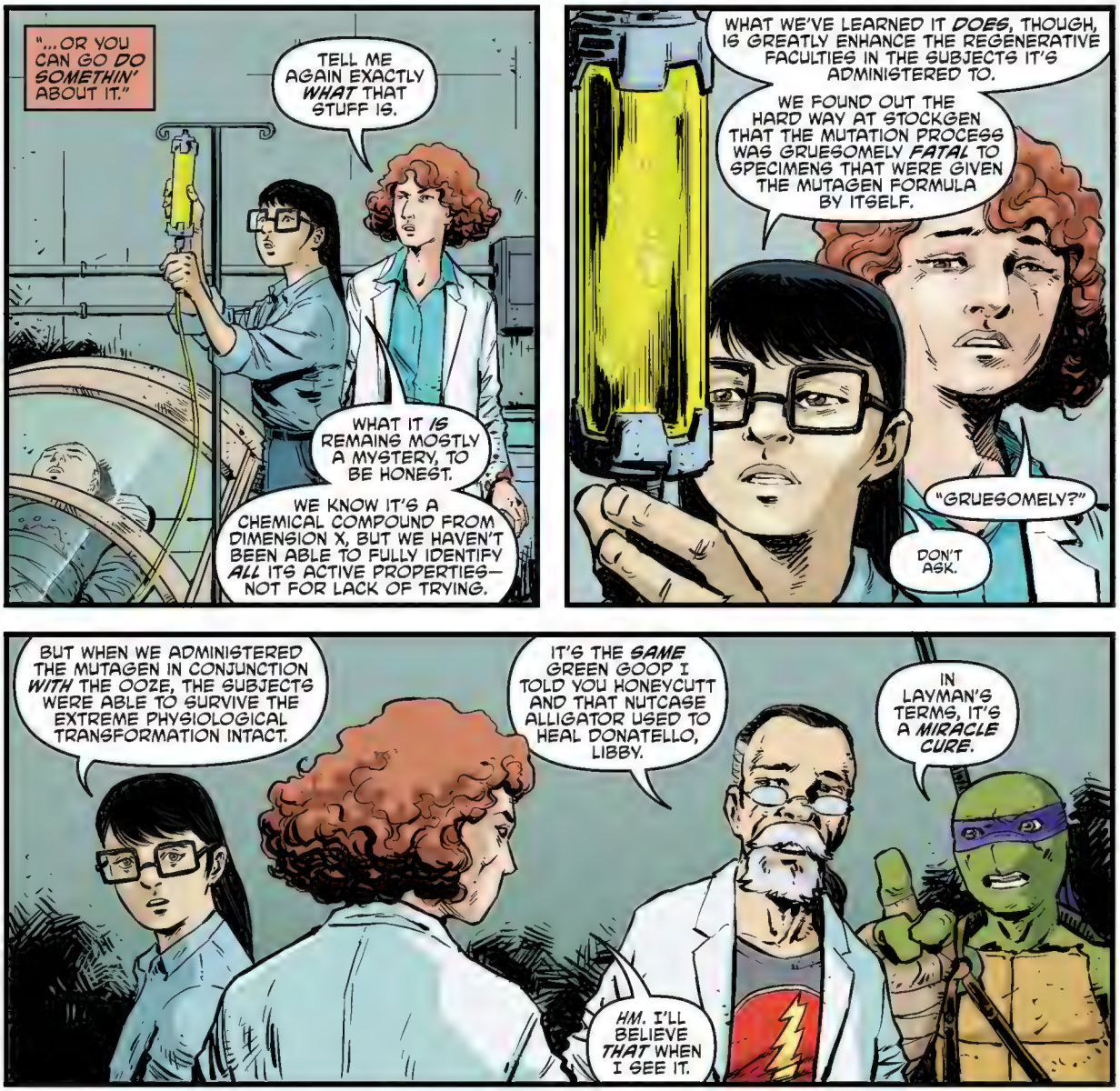
art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by DAVE WACHTER

ISSUE #85


HOW MUCH WERE YOU ABLE TO BRING, LINDSEY?
JUST THIS—
—IT'S ALL I'VE GOT ACCESS TO RIGHT NOW. HOB KEEPS MOST OF IT LOCKED UP IN CASE I EVER DECIDE TO STEAL SOME.
I TOLD HIM HE WAS ONLY BEING PARANOID, BUT...
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT JUSTIFYING HOB'S PARANOIA LATER.
FOR NOW, WHAT YOU HAVE IS MORE THAN I GAVE MY DAD IN NORTHAMPTON, AND HE FULLY RECOVERED FROM HIS STROKE—
—IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
LET'S HOPE.
WELL, ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
OKAY—I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT I'VE REALLY GOTTA GET TO ELECTION HEADQUARTERS. PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP ME POSTED. AND GOOD LUCK.
YOU GUYS READY?
WE'RE JUST WAITING ON YOU BUNCH TO QUIT YAPPING AT THE TV.
HAROLD!
LOOK, EITHER EVERYONE QUITS TALKING AND WE GET TO IT...

"...OR THIS GIRL IS HISTORY."
I GOT LINDSEY HERE FAST AS I COULD. WAY I WAS PUSHIN' DONNIE'S VAN, IT'S A MIRACLE WE EVEN MADE IT.
BUT YOU DID. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.
YEAH—YOU DID. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE RAPH DITCHED YOU LIKE THAT TO GO AFTER NULL.*
*See TMNT #94 – B.C.
C'MON, BRO—GIVE RAPH A BREAK. HE'S JUST GOT ISSUES RIGHT NOW.
HE HAS BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY, LEO.
WHO HERE HASN'T, ALOPEX?
I KNOW RAPH'S GOT SOME SERIOUS CRAP TO WORK OUT, BUT YOU DON'T ABANDON A FRIEND WHEN THEY'RE DOWN. HE SHOULD BE HERE WITH JENNY. WITH US.
MAKING EXCUSES FOR HIM ALL THE TIME ISN'T GOING TO HELP HIM GET BETTER.
I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN', LEO, BUT RAPH AIN'T ABANDONIN' ANYBODY.
HE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO STAND AROUND FEELIN' USELESS WHEN SOMEBODY HE CARES ABOUT'S HURTIN' AND THE ONES WHO DID IT ARE STILL OUT RUNNIN' AROUND LIKE NOTHIN'.
IT'S LIKE YOU CAN EITHER WAIT FOR SOMETHIN' TO HAPPEN AND FEEL HELPLESS THE WHOLE TIME...


"...OR YOU CAN GO DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT."
TELL ME AGAIN EXACTLY WHAT THAT STUFF IS.
WHAT IT IS REMAINS MOSTLY A MYSTERY, TO BE HONEST.
WE KNOW IT'S A CHEMICAL COMPOUND FROM DIMENSION X, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FULLY IDENTIFY ALL ITS ACTIVE PROPERTIES— NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING.
WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IT DOES, THOUGH, IS GREATLY ENHANCE THE REGENERATIVE FACULTIES IN THE SUBJECTS IT'S ADMINISTERED TO.
WE FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY AT STOCKGEN THAT THE MUTATION PROCESS WAS GRUESOMELY FATAL TO SPECIMENS THAT WERE GIVEN THE MUTAGEN FORMULA BY ITSELF.
"GRUESOMELY?"
DON'T ASK.
BUT WHEN WE ADMINISTERED THE MUTAGEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OOZE, THE SUBJECTS WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE EXTREME PHYSIOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION INTACT.
IT'S THE SAME GREEN GOOP I TOLD YOU HONEYCUTT AND THAT NUTCASE ALLIGATOR USED TO HEAL DONATELLO, LIBBY.
IN LAYMAN'S TERMS, IT'S A MIRACLE CURE.
HM. I'LL BELIEVE THAT WHEN I SEE IT.
LOOK.
MY GOD...
...IT'S TRUE.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
HAROLD, WHAT'S WRONG? IS JENNY—
SECURITY BREACH
SECURITY B
IT'S NOT THE GIRL.

HELLO, DONATELLO.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND YOU HERE.

"INFRARED SHOWS A VERITABLE *VIPER'S NEST* OF MUTANTS AND HUMAN TRAITORS INSIDE—"
—IT APPEARS METALHEAD HAS *COME THROUGH* AFTER ALL.
THOUGH I WISH HE'D HAD THE COURTESY TO WAIT UNTIL WE'D LANDED BEFORE HE COMMENCED THE ENGAGEMENT.
CAPTAIN MITCHELL?
SIR?
OUR OVER-ANXIOUS ROBOTIC ALLY HAS BEGUN WITHOUT US. YOU HAVE THE *GREEN LIGHT* TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD. BRING ME THOSE MUTANTS...
...DEAD OR ALIVE.
YOU *HEARD* THE MAN.
COPY THAT.
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A HELI—
KABOOM

KOFF KOFF
THERE THEY ARE!

TAKE 'EM DOWN!

THE EPF!
AND HERE THEY COME.
BRING 'EM ON.
DON'T LET 'EM GET TO JENNY.
WE WON'T.

"I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS DÉJÀ VU—"

—THE FEELING ONE IS REPEATING A MOMENT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPERIENCED.*
CONSIDERED AN UNSETTLING SENSATION BY MANY.
HRRGK...
FWAP
YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SHUNK
*See TMNT MACRO-SERIES: DONATELLO – B.C.
IT FEELS MUCH MORE LIKE AN IMPORTANT LESSON LEARNED TO ME, HOWEVER.
KLLLAP
GAH!
A CRITICAL REMINDER OF JUST HOW DEVIOUS YOU TWO CAN BE.

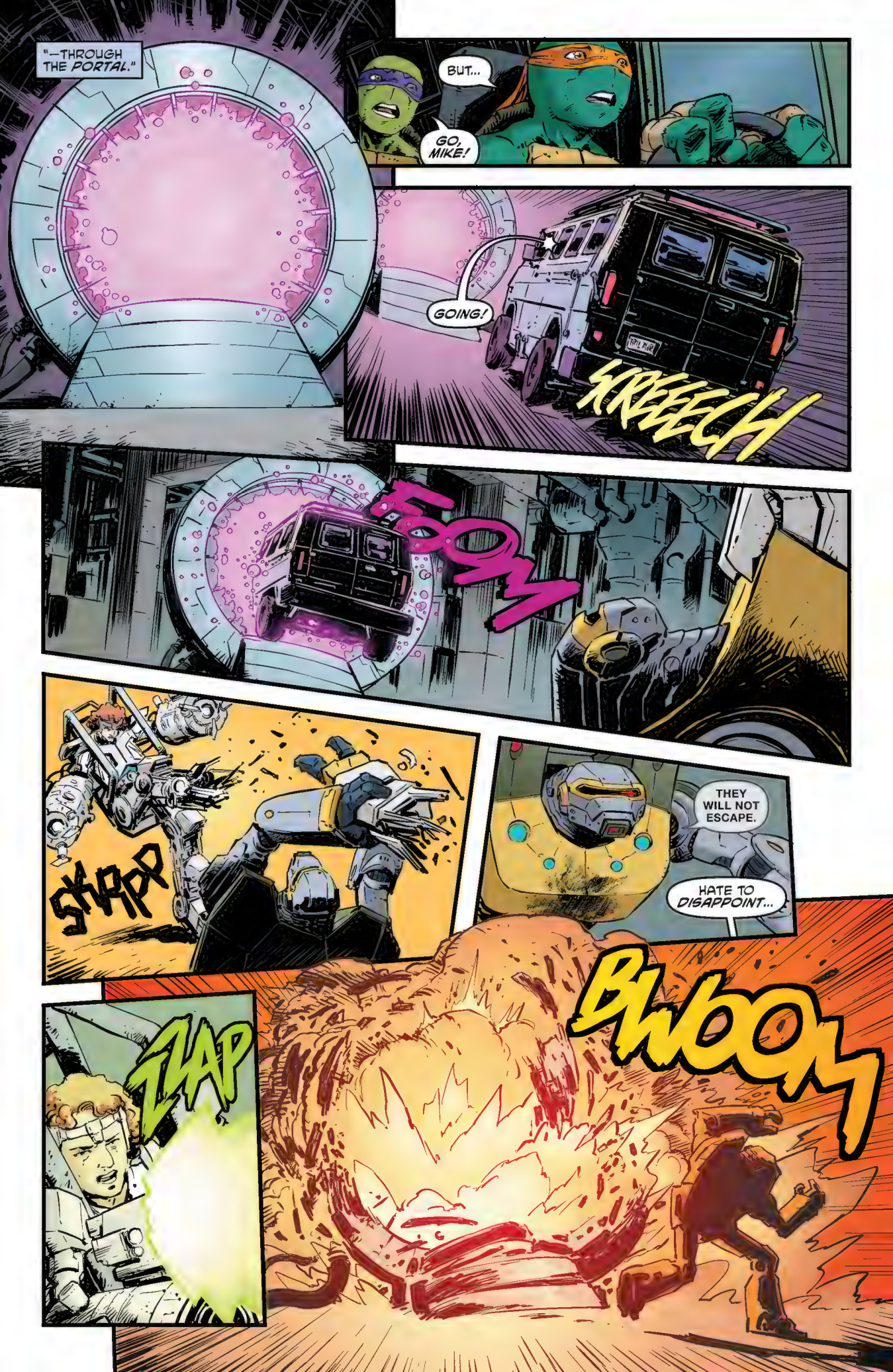
DON'T LET THAT THING TOUCH THE GIRL.
WHA... WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO GET.
HOLD TIGHT.
NO! WAIT!
KRAAP
KIISSH
OH, GOD... THE OOZE!
NO... JENNY...
NO!
WANG

IT WASN'T ENOUGH, DONNIE... THE OOZE.
SHE'S SLIPPING AWAY AGAIN.
COMMENDABLE EFFORT, DONATELLO...
...BUT ULTIMATELY FUTILE.
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BREAK FREE OF MY GRIP, BUT CALCULATING FOR THE EMOTIONAL RESPONSE IS NOT WITHOUT ITS MINOR IMPRECISIONS.
AN ANNOYING ALBEIT TEMPORARY SETBACK...
...AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEARN.
FLZZAKK
HELLO, METALHEAD. WE HAVEN'T BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED.
MY NAME'S LIBBY...

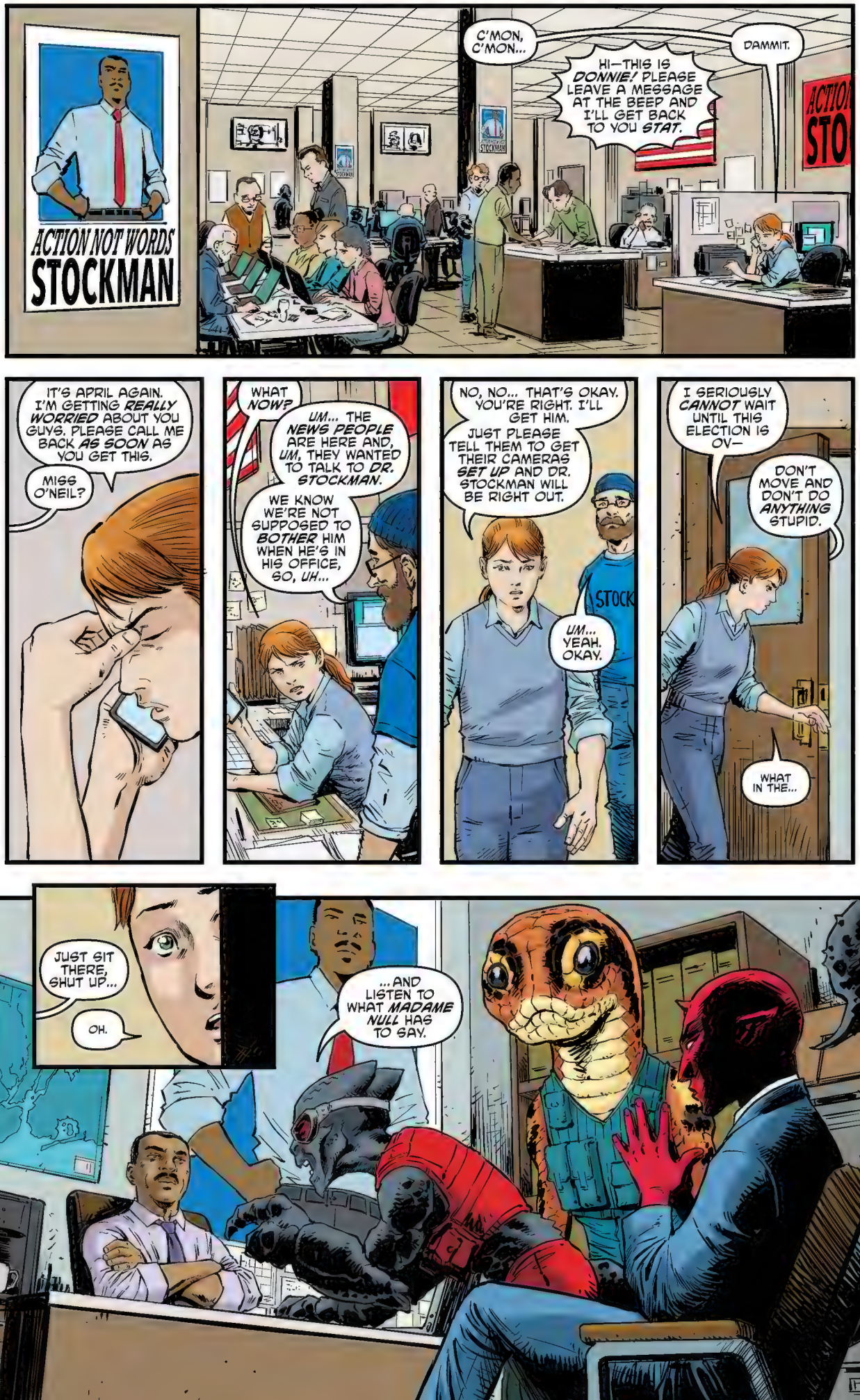
SECURITY PROTOCOL BRAVO ENGAGED
"...AND I'M IN CHARGE OF SECURITY HERE."
BLAM BLAM
LOOK OUT!
SHMP
THANKS, DUDE.
SHMP
SHMP
WHAT NOW?
BIOLOGICAL SCAN:FRIENDLY
OVER HERE! BEHIND THE—
BIOLOGICAL SCAN:HOSTILE
GYAH!
ZZZAP
WHATEVER IT IS, I DIG IT.

CAPTAIN MITCHELL, WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE?!
SLIGHT DELAY, SIR—
—MINOR COMPLICATION AT WORST.
AGHH!
EPF
ZZAP
IT DOESN'T SOUND MINOR! WE FINALLY HAVE THESE MONSTERS CORNERED. I'LL BE THERE SHORTLY—
—DO NOT LOSE OUR ADVANTAGE!
YOU TWO GONNA LAY AROUND ALL DAY OR WHAT?
NO—BUT WE CAN'T STAY HERE, EITHER. THESE LASERS ARE ONLY GONNA HELP SO MUCH.
ANY IDEAS? 'CAUSE I'M ALL EARS.
WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE OTHERS.
REGROUP AND RETREAT.
OR NOT.
LEO! GET EVERYONE IN THE VAN!

THE VAN? BUT THE LASERS—
ARE DISABLED.
JUST GET INSIDE THE VAN—NOW!
ZZAP
SKOMP
INTERFERING... HUMAN...
VOOM
JENNY! WHY... WHY'S SHE SO PALE?!
BECAUSE SHE'S DYING.
METALHEAD DESTROYED THE OOZE BEFORE IT COULD TAKE. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
NOW, DONATELLO!
HURRY, DAMMIT!
MIKEY, DRIVE!
WHERE, DUDE?!
STRAIGHT—


"—THROUGH THE PORTAL."
BUT...
GO, MIKE!
GOING!
SCREECH
FOOM
SKRRP
THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE.
HATE TO DISAPPOINT...
ZAP
BLOOM

WHAT COORDINATES DID YOU SEND THEM TO? IF YOU DO NOT TELL ME, I WILL DEDUCE THEM EVENTUALLY.
THEN I SUGGEST YOU GET BUSY DEDUCING.
SHHSHH
THERMITE.
YOU OKAY, LIB?
FINE. BUT SORRY ABOUT YOUR TOY, HON.
MEH. THAT DAMNED THING'S BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE SINCE WE BUILT IT.
WELL, ALTHOUGH I'VE ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR THE FIREWORKS AND THE LASER LIGHT SHOW...
...IT SEEMS TODAY'S INCURSION IS NOT A TOTAL LOSS.
DOCTORS LILJA AND MEITNER, YOU ARE HEREBY BEING PLACED UNDER ARREST AND TAKEN INTO THE CUSTODY OF THE EARTH PROTECTION FORCE.
ARRESTED? WHAT CHARGES?
EPF
AIDING AND ABETTING KNOWN MUTANT TERRORISTS, OF COURSE. AND FOR BOTH YOUR SAKES...
...I'D ADVISE UNMITIGATED COOPERATION MOVING FORWARD.


ACTION NOT WORDS
STOCKMAN
C'MON, C'MON...
HI—THIS IS DONNIE! PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE BEEP AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU STAT.
DAMMIT.
IT'S APRIL AGAIN. I'M GETTING REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU GUYS. PLEASE CALL ME BACK AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS.
MISS O'NEIL?
WHAT NOW?
UM... THE NEWS PEOPLE ARE HERE AND, UM, THEY WANTED TO TALK TO DR. STOCKMAN.
WE KNOW WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BOTHER HIM WHEN HE'S IN HIS OFFICE, SO, UH...
NO, NO... THAT'S OKAY. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL GET HIM.
JUST PLEASE TELL THEM TO GET THEIR CAMERAS SET UP AND DR. STOCKMAN WILL BE RIGHT OUT.
UM... YEAH. OKAY.
I SERIOUSLY CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THIS ELECTION IS OV—
DON'T MOVE AND DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.
WHAT IN THE...
JUST SIT THERE, SHUT UP...
OH.
...AND LISTEN TO WHAT MADAME NULL HAS TO SAY.

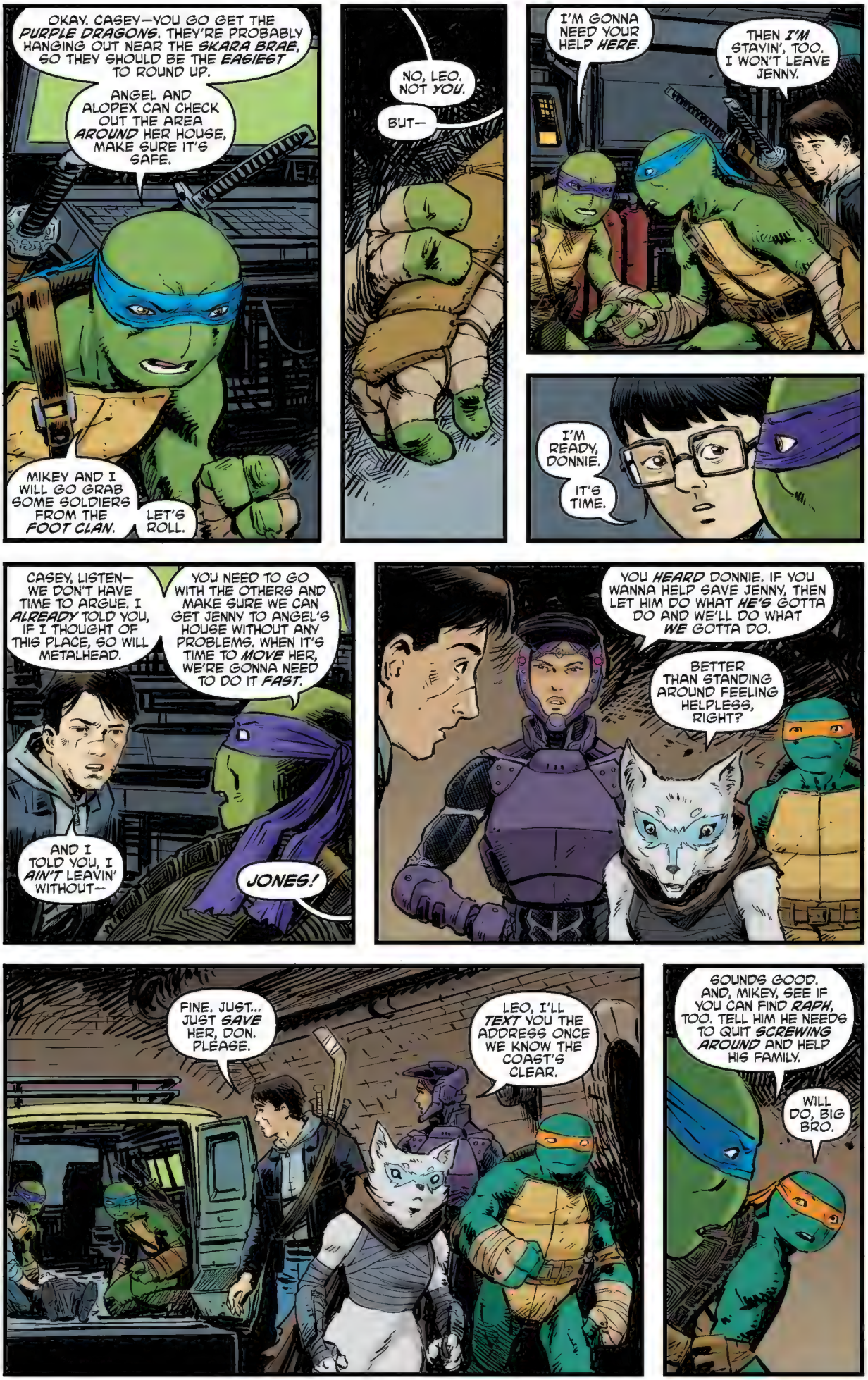
HIT THE BRAKES! HIT THE BRAKES!
FOOM
SKKRRRCHHHH
OH GOD OH GOD OH GOD OH— WAITAMINUTE.
IS THIS THE OLD LAIR?

YEAH. I TOLD HAROLD TO SEND US HERE.
IT'S THE *ONLY* *COORDINATES* I COULD THINK OF ON SHORT NOTICE.
HURRY, LINDSEY.
HERE. YOU SET UP *THAT* END.
WAIT... *WHAT'RE* YOU GUYS DOIN'?
PLAN C.
THERE'S A PLAN C?
THERE IS *NOW*.
LISTEN—I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN, BUT IF *I* THOUGHT ABOUT COMING TO THIS PLACE, THEN *METALHEAD'S* GONNA EVENTUALLY DO THE *SAME*. WHICH MEANS WE CAN'T STAY HERE LONG.
ONCE WE GET JENNY STABLE, WE'RE GONNA NEED TO GET HER TO A PLACE I'VE *NEVER* BEEN TO. IF I DON'T KNOW IT, *NEITHER* WILL METALHEAD, AND SHE SHOULD BE *SAFE* THERE.
I GOT AN IDEA.

YOU GUYS AIN'T NEVER BEEN TO MY *OLD MAN'S* *CRIB*. WE COULD TAKE HER THERE.
BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?
HE'LL BE PISSED...

...BUT WHEN'D *THAT* EVER STOP ME?
NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME *HERE* AGAIN.

GOOD IDEA, ANGEL. ONE PROBLEM, THOUGH— THE *EPF* *PATROLS*.
TRUE. WHO KNOWS *WHAT'S* GOING ON WITH HER RIGHT NOW?
KARAI AND HER CREW, TOO.
WE'RE GONNA NEED TO SEND A TEAM *AHEAD* TO MAKE SURE THE PATH'S CLEAR.
AND WE'RE GONNA NEED *HELP*.


OKAY, CASEY—YOU GO GET THE PURPLE DRAGONS. THEY'RE PROBABLY HANGING OUT NEAR THE SKARA BRAE, SO THEY SHOULD BE THE EASIEST TO ROUND UP.
ANGEL AND ALOPEX CAN CHECK OUT THE AREA AROUND HER HOUSE, MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE.
MIKEY AND I WILL GO GRAB SOME SOLDIERS FROM THE FOOT CLAN.
LET'S ROLL.
NO, LEO. NOT YOU.
BUT—
I'M GONNA NEED YOUR HELP HERE.
THEN I'M STAYIN', TOO. I WON'T LEAVE JENNY.
I'M READY, DONNIE.
IT'S TIME.
CASEY, LISTEN—WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE. I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IF I THOUGHT OF THIS PLACE, SO WILL METALHEAD.
YOU NEED TO GO WITH THE OTHERS AND MAKE SURE WE CAN GET JENNY TO ANGEL'S HOUSE WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE HER, WE'RE GONNA NEED TO DO IT FAST.
AND I TOLD YOU, I AIN'T LEAVIN' WITHOUT—
JONES!
YOU HEARD DONNIE. IF YOU WANNA HELP SAVE JENNY, THEN LET HIM DO WHAT HE'S GOTTA DO AND WE'LL DO WHAT WE GOTTA DO.
BETTER THAN STANDING AROUND FEELING HELPLESS, RIGHT?
FINE. JUST... JUST SAVE HER, DON. PLEASE.
LEO, I'LL TEXT YOU THE ADDRESS ONCE WE KNOW THE COAST'S CLEAR.
SOUNDS GOOD. AND, MIKEY, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND RAPH, TOO. TELL HIM HE NEEDS TO QUIT SCREWING AROUND AND HELP HIS FAMILY.
WILL DO, BIG BRO.

OKAY. NOW WHAT?
GIVE ME YOUR ARM.
I'D DO IT, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE *FUZZY-HEADED* RIGHT NOW.
MY ARM? WAIT. IF YOU USE MY BLOOD, WON'T *THAT*...?
WE DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IT WILL DO. BUT IT'S ALL WE'VE GOT LEFT.
WHATEVER IT TAKES—THAT'S WHAT YOU *SAID*, REMEMBER?
DO IT.
HERE GOES.

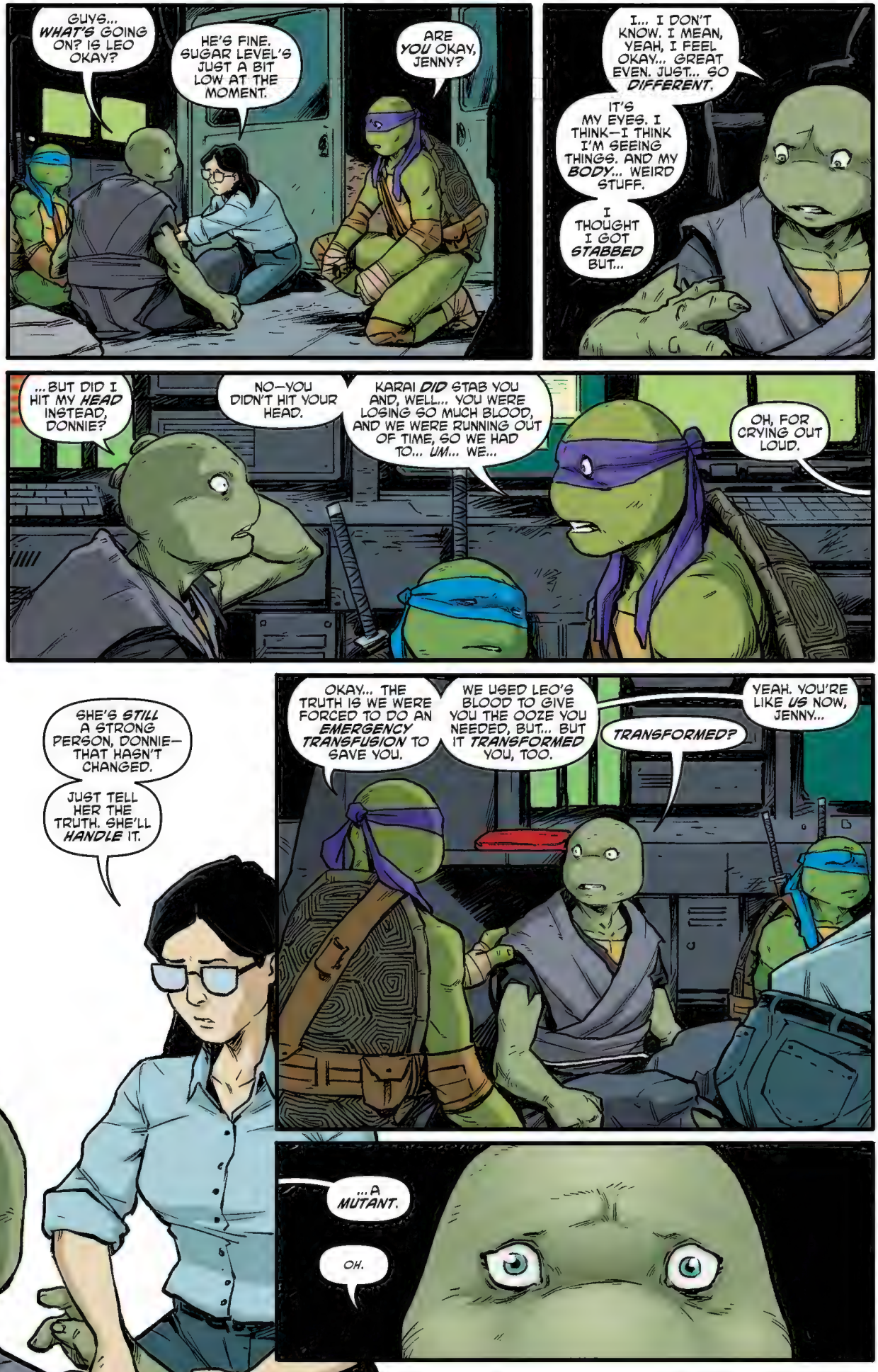
HNFF... NRFF...
HNH?!
AAAGH!

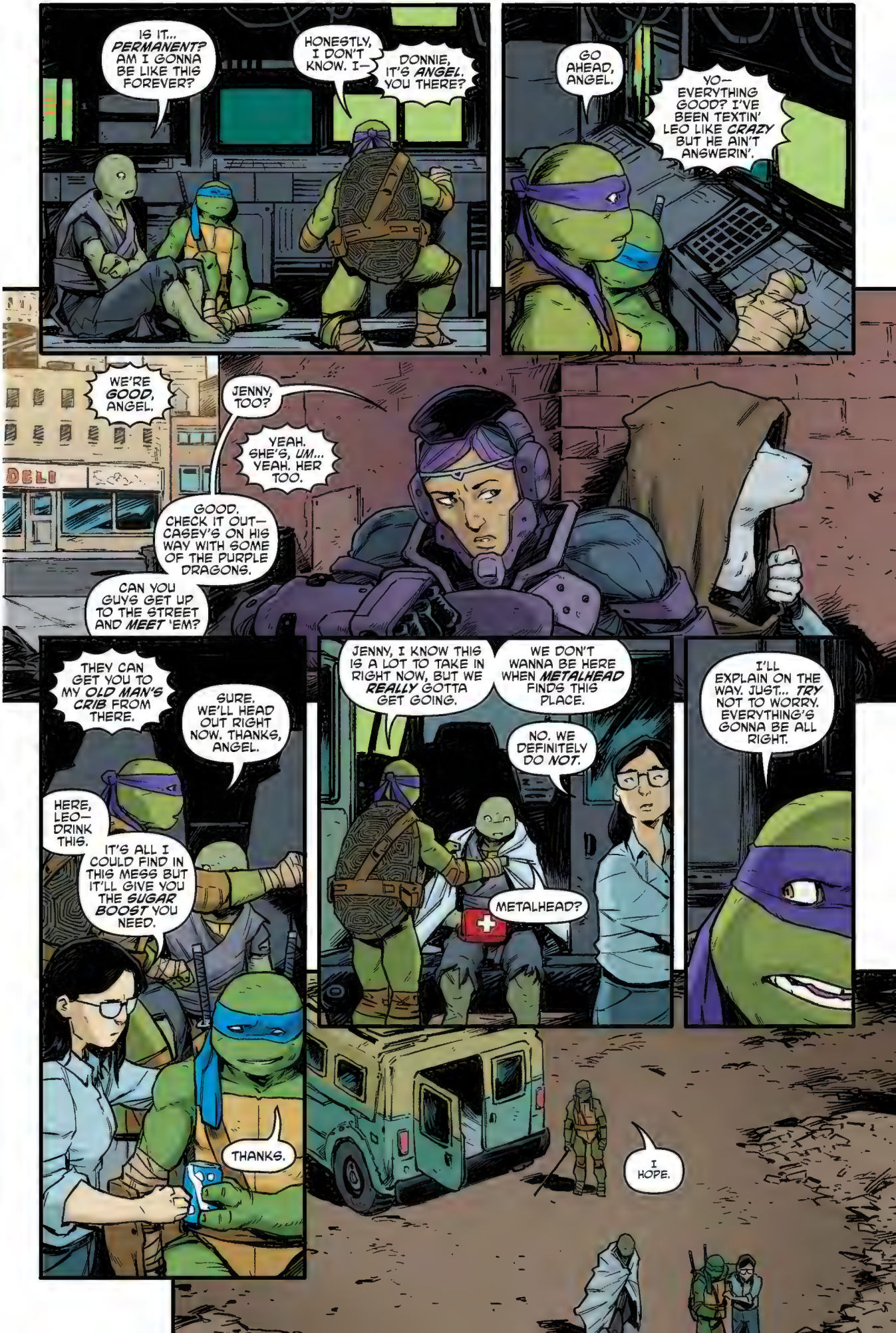
art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by DAVE WACHTER

ISSUE #96

GYUHH!
THE CUT—IT'S... IT'S GONE. HOW—
WAIT.
HUH?
LEO?
THANK... GOD. THOUGHT WE... LOST... YOU...
FUMP!


GUYS... WHAT'S GOING ON? IS LEO OKAY?
HE'S FINE. SUGAR LEVEL'S JUST A BIT LOW AT THE MOMENT.
ARE YOU OKAY, JENNY?
I... I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, YEAH, I FEEL OKAY... GREAT EVEN. JUST... SO DIFFERENT.
IT'S MY EYES. I THINK—I THINK I'M SEEING THINGS. AND MY BODY... WEIRD STUFF.
I THOUGHT I GOT STABBED BUT...
...BUT DID I HIT MY HEAD INSTEAD, DONNIE?
NO—YOU DIDN'T HIT YOUR HEAD.
KARAI DID STAB YOU AND, WELL... YOU WERE LOSING SO MUCH BLOOD, AND WE WERE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, SO WE HAD TO... UM... WE...
OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
SHE'S STILL A STRONG PERSON, DONNIE—THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
JUST TELL HER THE TRUTH. SHE'LL HANDLE IT.
OKAY... THE TRUTH IS WE WERE FORCED TO DO AN EMERGENCY TRANSFUSION TO SAVE YOU.
WE USED LEO'S BLOOD TO GIVE YOU THE OOZE YOU NEEDED, BUT... BUT IT TRANSFORMED YOU, TOO.
TRANSFORMED?
YEAH. YOU'RE LIKE US NOW, JENNY...
...A MUTANT.
OH.


IS IT... PERMANENT? AM I GONNA BE LIKE THIS FOREVER?
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW. I—
DONNIE, IT'S ANGEL. YOU THERE?
GO AHEAD, ANGEL.
YO— EVERYTHING GOOD? I'VE BEEN TEXTIN' LEO LIKE CRAZY BUT HE AIN'T ANSWERIN'.
WE'RE GOOD, ANGEL.
JENNY, TOO?
YEAH. SHE'S, UM... YEAH. HER TOO.
DELI
GOOD. CHECK IT OUT— CASEY'S ON HIS WAY WITH SOME OF THE PURPLE DRAGONS.
CAN YOU GUYS GET UP TO THE STREET AND MEET 'EM?
THEY CAN GET YOU TO MY OLD MAN'S CRIB FROM THERE.
SURE. WE'LL HEAD OUT RIGHT NOW. THANKS, ANGEL.
HERE, LEO— DRINK THIS.
IT'S ALL I COULD FIND IN THIS MESS BUT IT'LL GIVE YOU THE SUGAR BOOST YOU NEED.
THANKS.
JENNY, I KNOW THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN RIGHT NOW, BUT WE REALLY GOTTA GET GOING.
WE DON'T WANNA BE HERE WHEN METALHEAD FINDS THIS PLACE.
NO. WE DEFINITELY DO NOT.
METALHEAD?
I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY. JUST... TRY NOT TO WORRY. EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
I HOPE.

MORE BUSINESS WITH NINJAS?
WE ALL AGREE THAT NOTHING GOOD CAN COME OF SUCH A THING, YES?
TURTELLI'S RIGHT. THE FOOT CLAN AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT TROUBLE. WE SHOULDA NEVER GOT IN BED WITH THOSE DAMN KARATE FREAKS.
MAYBE. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE SHREDDER EVER GAVE US MUCH OF A CHOICE, BIG LOUIE.
OR THAT FILTHY RAT THAT TOOK HIS PLACE.
AND YOU SAY SHREDDER'S GRANDDAUGHTER WISHES TO SIT IN THE BIG CHAIR NOW, DON PUZORELLI?
YEAH. SHE MADE IT PRETTY DAMN CLEAR WHEN HER AND THOSE MUTANTS SHE'S RUNNING BUSTED UP MY HOUSE.*
MUTANTS... FFT! ONLY THING WORSE THAN NINJAS ARE THOSE STINKIN' MUTANTS.
*See TMNT #93 – B.C.
AGREED. BUT SINCE KARAI'S GOT PLENTY OF BOTH WORKING FOR HER, IT PUTS US BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE—ESPECIALLY NOW THAT SHE'S DECIDED TO PISS OFF THE RAT.
I JUST GOT WORD SPLINTER AND HIS CREW TOOK OUT MY GUY LUPO. LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO PICK OUR POISON IN THIS WAR.
NO OFFENSE, DON PUZORELLI, BUT LUPO WAS NEVER THE SHARPEST TACK IN YOUR TOOLBOX. THE RAT'S GOONS GETTIN' THE BEST OF HIM AND HIS BOYS AIN'T NO REAL SHOCKER.
BUT KARAI TEARIN' UP YOUR PLACE THE WAY SHE DID—THAT'S SOMETHIN' TO PAY ATTENTION TO.
WHY YOU THINK I GOT THESE MOOKS IN HERE WITH US—FOR MY HEALTH?
UHH...
DAMN RIGHT, IT'S FOR MY HEALTH! YOURS, TOO.

"NO WAY I'M LETTING THOSE NINJAS GET THE JUMP ON US AGAIN."
SORRY, LITTLE LADY—MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO LET YOU IN, BUILDING'S CLOSED FOR BUSINESS TODAY.
BUT THAT DON'T MEAN YOU CAN'T GIVE US A PEEK, BABE. I GOTTA KNOW IF THE VIEW UNDER THAT HOOD'S AS FINE AS THE REST OF YOU.
"NO MORE SURPRISES."
WHAT THE HELL?
WAIT! SHE'S—
"NO MORE GETTING CAUGHT WITH OUR PANTS DOWN."
PIGS.
SHK! SHK!
"WE GOT THIS PLACE BUTTONED DOWN TIGHT.
"NOBODY GETTING IN OR OUT WITHOUT OUR SAY.
SPH!
TF! TF!
TWK!
"FROM NOW ON, IF THE FAMILIES GOTTA DEAL WITH THESE DAMN NINJAS...
"...IT'S GONNA BE ON OUR TERMS."

"CAUSE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT *YOU* BOYS, BUT IF I GOTTA GO DOWN TO THESE FREAKS..."
DING!
WHAT THE—
SHPP!
SHP!
"...I'M GONNA GO DOWN *FIGHTING*."
ON THAT WE *AGREE*, DON PUZORELLI.
'SIDES, YOU ASK ME, THOSE NINJAS ARE NOTHIN' BUT A BUNCHA *COWARDS*— ALWAYS HIDIN', NEVER COMIN' OUT BEFORE DARK.
FWAM!
WHO THE HELL?!
NINJAS!
YOU GOTTA BE *KIDDIN'*!

FLM!
FLM!
THK!
THNK!
SHP!
FUP!
HNFF!
BAM!
BAM!
GAHH!
ANTHONY PUZORELLI, YOUR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED BY THE FOOT CLAN.
WAIT! PLEASE! WHATEVER YOUR BOSS WANTS, YOU GOT IT!
JUST DON'T KILL ME!
YOU SIGNED YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT WITH YOUR TREACHERY.
GOODBYE.
SSSS!
BADOOM!

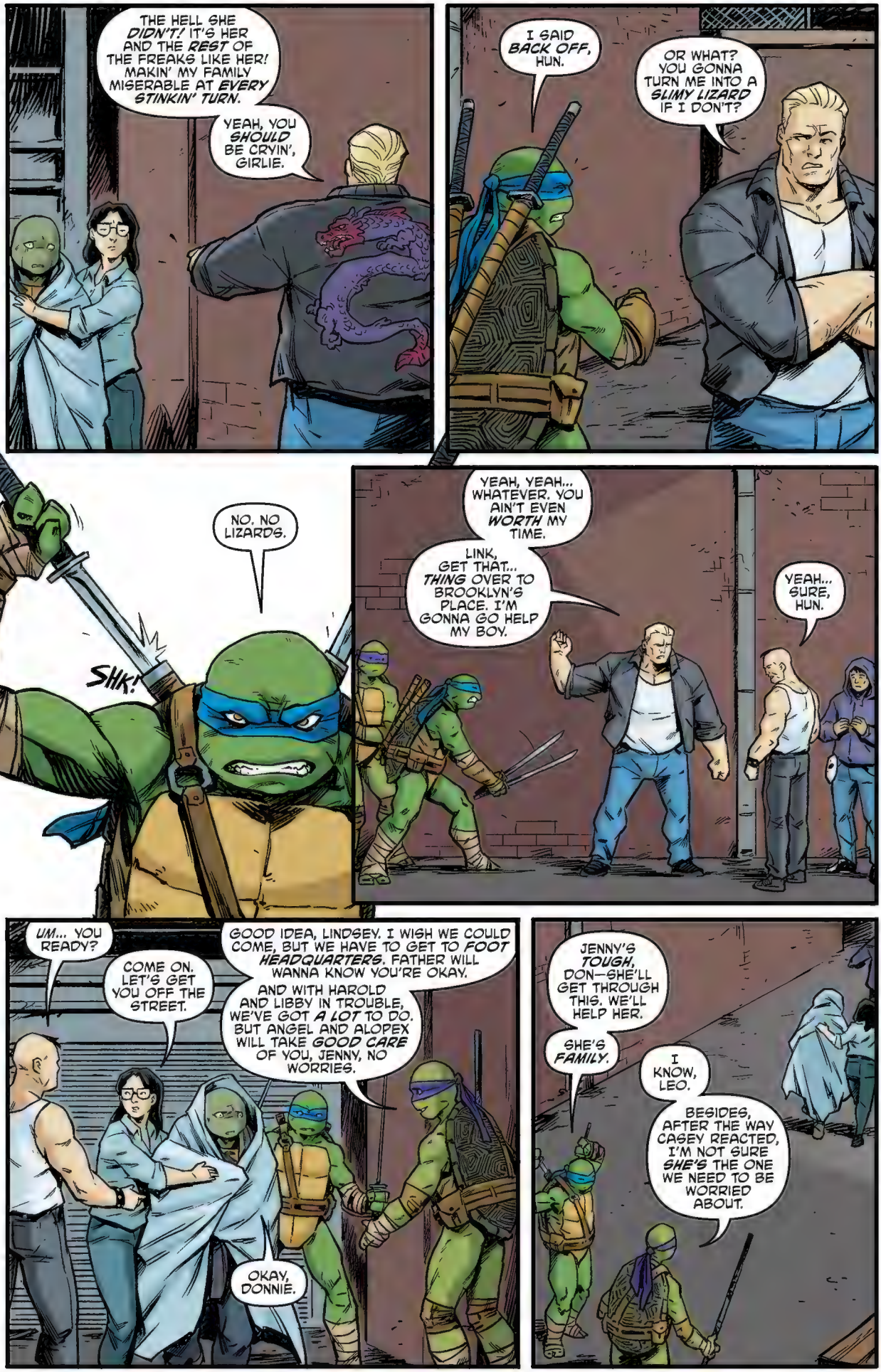
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO *INTIMIDATE* ME?
THIS LITTLE SHOW OF *MUTANT FORCE?*
I WOULD HOPE YOU'D HAVE DONE MORE THOROUGH *RESEARCH* INTO YOUR COMPETITORS, MADAM NULL.
NO—DESPITE ZODI'S RATHER AGGRESSIVE APPROACH, INTIMIDATION IS *NOT* ON MY AGENDA TODAY, DOCTOR STOCKMAN.
ENTICEMENT IS.
CONTRARY TO YOUR SKEPTICISM, I *HAVE* FULLY VETTED YOU OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING YOUR RECENT POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS, AND I HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSAL THAT I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND *DUALLY* FAVORABLE.
AS YOU WELL KNOW, MANAGING A TOP-TIER COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE IS PRONE TO UNEXPECTED, SHALL WE SAY, *SETBACKS*. NULL INDUSTRIES IS *NO* EXCEPTION.
OUR MAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY RECENTLY SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT *DAMAGE*, INDEFINITELY DELAYING CRITICAL OPERATIONS AND ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR BOTTOM LINE.*
I BRING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'LL SOON BE IN A *SIMILAR SITUATION* AT TCRI.
*See TMNT #94 – B.C.
IS THAT SO? AND *WHAT* MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
SHOULD YOU WIN THIS ELECTION—AND MOST POLLS SEEM TO INDICATE YOU *WILL*—
—YOUR BUSINESS ENDEAVORS WILL INEVITABLY BE FORCED TO TAKE A *BACK SEAT* TO YOUR MAYORAL DUTIES...
...NOT TO MENTION THE *ETHICAL COMPLICATIONS* IT WOULD RAISE.
YES, YES... I CONSIDERED *ALL* THIS BEFORE I DECIDED TO RUN FOR OFFICE.
BEING MAYOR WOULD CERTAINLY *COMPLICATE* MY BUSINESS PURSUITS, BUT IT'S NOTHING I CAN'T OVERCOME.
PERHAPS.
BUT WHAT IF IT NEED *NOT* BE SO COMPLICATED? WHAT IF *YOUR* PROBLEM BECAME *MY* COMPANY'S SOLUTION, AND VICE VERSA?

QUITE SIMPLY, I AM PROPOSING A PARTNERSHIP, DR. STOCKMAN. AN AGREEMENT WHEREIN TCRI LICENSES ALL ITS FACILITIES—AND ALL ITS RESEARCH—TO NULL INDUSTRIES.
NULL HANDLES THE R&D, YOU MAKE THE MONEY, AND WE ALL BENEFIT—PARTICULARLY, FOR ME, FROM THE YIELD OF MUTANT GENETICS.
MEANWHILE, AS MAYOR, YOUR HANDS WILL BE CLEAN.
AND HOW DOES YOUR MUTANT MUSCLE FEEL ABOUT YOUR EFFORTS IN GENETIC MANIPULATION?
WE—
THEY FEEL HOW I INSTRUCT THEM TO FEEL.
ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF OUR PRODUCT IS TANTAMOUNT TO OUR MUTATION WORK.
SOMETHING I'M SURE YOU CAN FULLY APPRECIATE, DOCTOR.
YES, WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY PRESENTED AN INTERESTING OFFER—ONE I'LL EVENTUALLY TAKE UNDER CONSIDERATION.
FOR NOW, HOWEVER, THIS ELECTION TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER CONCERNS, SO A PROMISE TO RESPOND WHEN TIME ALLOWS IS THE BEST I CAN DO FOR YOU TODAY.
VERY WELL. I WILL LEAVE MY CARD AND I WILL HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE.
ZODI, KRISA... SHALL WE?
MA'AM.
HM. CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HOW YOU GOT IN HERE UNDETECTED.
SURREPTITIOUSLY PROCURED FROM LILJA, I ASSUME?
AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DOCTOR...
...I DO THE REQUIRED HOMEWORK ON ALL MY COMPETITORS.

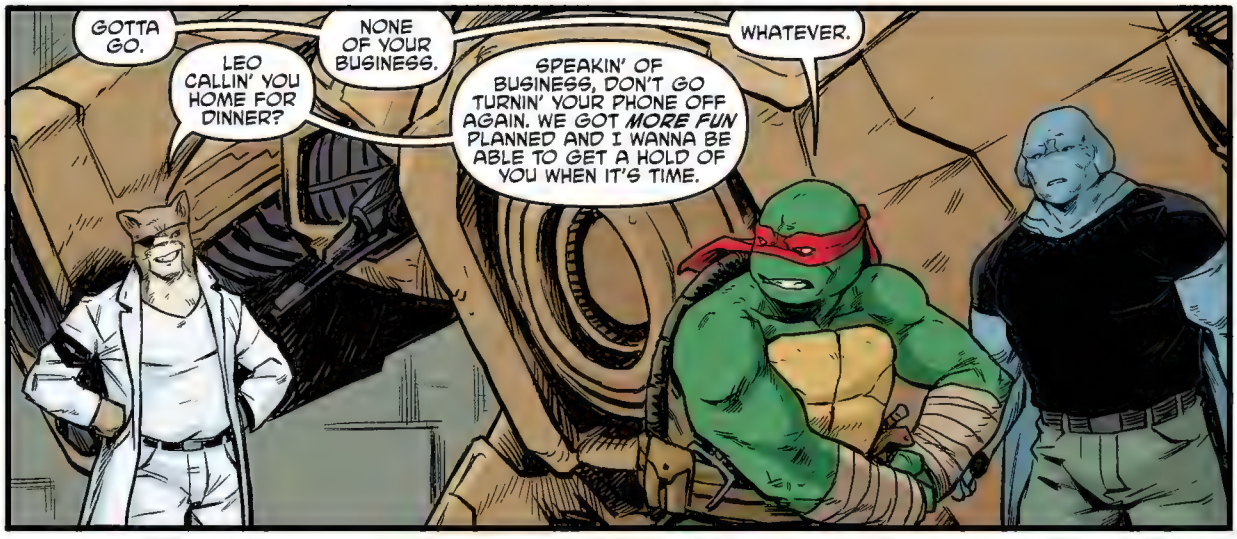
YO, THERE THEY ARE...
...IT'S THEM MUTANT TURTLES.
QUICK, MALO. GO GET CASEY.
ON IT.
ALL CLEAR. IT'S THE PURPLE DRAGONS.
WE'VE GOT YOU, JENNY.
CAREFUL. SHE'S STILL A LITTLE WOBBLY.
IN THE ALLEY...
...RIGHT OVER THERE, JEFE.
MOVE. CASEY WANTS THROUGH.
GREAT...
...HUN.

WHERE IS SHE, GUYS? WHERE'S JENNY?
SHE'S RIGHT HERE, CASEY. SHE'S FINE, BUT... BUT MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME FOR YOU TO SEE HER.
WHAT?
SOMETHING HAPPENED. WHEN WE—
OUTTA THE WAY, MUTANTS! CASEY WANTS TO SEE HIS GIRL.
HEY!
BACK OFF, HUN.
YEAH? YOU GONNA MAKE ME, TURTLE BOY?
JENNY? YOU OKAY?
OH, NO.
WAIT, I—

WHA... WHAT'D THEY DO TO YOU?
CASEY. PLEASE...
WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO.
WE SAVED HER LIFE.
THAT'S ALL THAT SHOULD MATTER.
BUT... I...
DONNIE?
LINDSEY'S RIGHT, CASEY. THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.
TOUGH BREAK, KID. BUT WHAT'D YOU EXPECT FROM THIS BUNCH? THEY'VE BEEN NOTHIN' BUT TROUBLE FROM THE START.
I...
...I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE, JENNY. REALLY. IT'S JUST... I GOTTA GO RIGHT NOW.
YOU KNOW... TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S CLEAR ON THE WAY TO ANGEL'S HOUSE. I'LL...
...I'LL SEE YOU OVER THERE, OKAY?
IT'S ALRIGHT, JENNIKA—WE JUST CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD WITH ALL THIS.
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

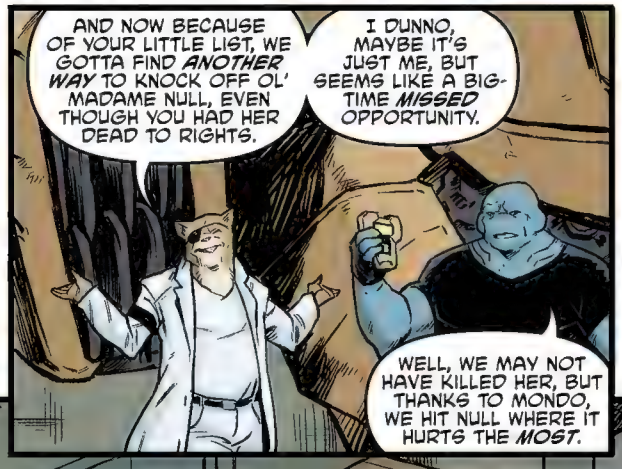

THE HELL SHE DIDN'T! IT'S HER AND THE REST OF THE FREAKS LIKE HER! MAKIN' MY FAMILY MISERABLE AT EVERY STINKIN' TURN.
YEAH, YOU SHOULD BE CRYIN', GIRLIE.
I SAID BACK OFF, HUN.
OR WHAT? YOU GONNA TURN ME INTO A SLIMY LIZARD IF I DON'T?
NO. NO LIZARDS.
SHK!
YEAH, YEAH... WHATEVER. YOU AIN'T EVEN WORTH MY TIME.
LINK, GET THAT... THING OVER TO BROOKLYN'S PLACE. I'M GONNA GO HELP MY BOY.
YEAH... SURE, HUN.
UM... YOU READY?
COME ON. LET'S GET YOU OFF THE STREET.
GOOD IDEA, LINDSEY. I WISH WE COULD COME, BUT WE HAVE TO GET TO FOOT HEADQUARTERS. FATHER WILL WANNA KNOW YOU'RE OKAY.
AND WITH HAROLD AND LIBBY IN TROUBLE, WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO. BUT ANGEL AND ALOPEX WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU, JENNY, NO WORRIES.
OKAY, DONNIE.
JENNY'S TOUGH, DON—SHE'LL GET THROUGH THIS. WE'LL HELP HER.
SHE'S FAMILY.
I KNOW, LEO.
BESIDES, AFTER THE WAY CASEY REACTED, I'M NOT SURE SHE'S THE ONE WE NEED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.

YOU'VE GOT THE WATCH, HERMAN.
ROGER THAT, SIR!
NICE JOB TODAY, TURTLE. YOU KICKED SOME SERIOUS TAIL.
YOU EXPECT ANY LESS, FLEABAG?
WELL, I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YA, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HOLD BACK WHEN THE BULLETS STARTED FLYIN'.
GOOD TO SEE YOU'VE PUT ALL THAT KINDER, GENTLER CRAP BEHIND YOU.
NOT THAT I CARE ABOUT IMPRESSIN' YOU, BUT KIND AND GENTLE'S MORE MY LITTLE BRO'S THING.
BZZ!
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH...
MIKEY
WHAT'S UP, MIKEY?
RAPH, WHERE ARE YOU?! YOU FORGET HOW TO ANSWER YOUR PHONE, DUDE?
GOT BUSY SO I TURNED IT OFF.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MIKE?
LEO WANTS US ALL TO MEET AT FOOT HEADQUARTERS ASAP.
JENNY'S OKAY SO NOW WE GOTTA START WORRYING ABOUT WHAT METALHEAD AND BISHOP ARE GONNA DO NEXT SINCE THEY KNOW WHERE WE LIVE AND STUFF.
'COURSE WE DO.
HUH?
NOTHIN'. TELL LEO I'M ON MY WAY. I JUST GOTTA MAKE A QUICK STOP FIRST.
YOU GOT IT, BRO.


GOTTA GO.
LEO CALLIN' YOU HOME FOR DINNER?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
SPEAKIN' OF BUSINESS, DON'T GO TURNIN' YOUR PHONE OFF AGAIN. WE GOT *MORE FUN* PLANNED AND I WANNA BE ABLE TO GET A HOLD OF YOU WHEN IT'S TIME.
WHATEVER.

RAPHAEL REALLY *DID* COME THROUGH FOR US AGAINST NULL, HOB.
HE'LL BE AN EFFECTIVE ASSET MOVING FORWARD.
YEAH— WE *ALL* DID GOOD.
I JUST WISH A CERTAIN SOMEONE WOULDA *FINISHED* WHAT SHE STARTED, THOUGH...
I *HEARD* THAT!

I TOLD YOU, HOB—KILLING MUTANTS IS A *NO-GO*.
I'VE ALREADY GOT *ENOUGH* QUALMS ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING...
...I'M SURE AS HELL NOT ADDING *THAT* TO THE LIST.


AND NOW BECAUSE OF YOUR LITTLE LIST, WE GOTTA FIND *ANOTHER WAY* TO KNOCK OFF OL' MADAME NULL, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD HER DEAD TO RIGHTS.
I DUNNO, MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT SEEMS LIKE A BIG-TIME *MISSED* OPPORTUNITY.
WELL, WE MAY NOT HAVE KILLED HER, BUT THANKS TO MONDO, WE HIT NULL WHERE IT HURTS THE *MOST*.

THAT'S RIGHT! *MONDO* KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A *TEAM PLAYER*, HUH?
YOU READY TO GET TO WORK?
YOU NEED TO *ASK*?
NOPE, MY FRIEND. I DO NOT.

SALLY, IF ANYONE ASKS, ME AND RAY DON'T WANNA BE DISTURBED.
TEAM PLAYERS? *RIGHT*.

"I WILL BE RETIRING TO MY CHAMBERS FOR THE EVENING, YUMIKO..."
...BUT DO NOT HESITATE TO AWAKEN ME SHOULD WE RECEIVE WORD FROM MY SONS REGARDING MY CHUNIN.
HAI.
GOOD EVENING, OROKU KARAI.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?

I HAVEN'T COME FOR *TEA*, MUTANT.
NO. I AM SURE YOU HAVE NOT.
I MUST ADMIT, I AM *IMPRESSED* THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO INFILTRATE MY CHAMBERS UNDETECTED.
I'M NINJA. I'VE TRAINED MY *ENTIRE LIFE* TO MOVE UNSEEN.
STILL, NO SIMPLE FEAT, THAT.
I WANT YOUR PETTY COMPLIMENTS NO MORE THAN YOUR TEA, RODENT. I WANT WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE—THE *THRONE* YOU'VE DISGRACED WITH YOUR DETESTABLE COWARDICE.
AND I WANT YOUR *REPULSIVE HEAD*.
REPULSIVE IT MAY BE, CHILD, BUT IT IS *ALL* I HAVE, AND I INTEND TO KEEP IT. EVEN AT MY AGE, IT REMAINS USEFUL.
AS DOES...
...MY *TAIL!*
SHPOW!

DEVIOUS RAT—UFF!
FWAK!
I AM NINJA. I HAVE TRAINED TWO LIFETIMES TO STRIKE UNEXPECTEDLY.
GUARDS! TO ME!
STAND DOWN, OROKU KARAI.
TO YOU? OR TO THOSE YOU WOULD HAVE DO YOUR FIGHTING FOR YOU, MUTANT?
TO THE MASTER OF THE FOOT CLAN.
MASTER? FEH! IN NAME ONLY. YOU LOST THE RIGHT TO HOLD THAT TITLE WHEN YOU REFUSED MY GAUNTLET REQUEST.
HAD WE SETTLED OUR DISPUTE HONORABLY IN DUELING BATTLE, WE WOULDN'T BE STANDING AS WE ARE TODAY—ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION.
HAD I ALLOWED THE GAUNTLET, THE ONLY RESOLUTION TO OUR DISAGREEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN DEATH. I CHOSE NOT TO ACCEPT THAT DARK INEVITABILITY.
SO INSTEAD, YOU CHOSE WAR.
NO, CHILD—IT WAS YOU WHO CHOSE WAR.
AND I INTEND TO FINISH WHAT I'VE BEGUN.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TODAY AS A SOLE ASSASSIN.
I CAME AS A GENERAL LEADING AN ARMY.

KSHS!
RIIIIIP!
A GENERAL WHO HAS DILIGENTLY *STUDIED* THE HISTORY OF THE FOOT CLAN.
ITS STRENGTHS.
ITS WEAKNESSES.
NNH!
SHLIP!
IMPORTANT LESSONS, SUCH AS THE CLAN *JONIN'S* PROPENSITY FOR ***UNBOUNDED ANGER*** IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL AFFRONTS. LIKE THE ***TREACHERY*** OF HIS CRIMINAL LACKEYS.
OR A ***PREMEDITATED ATTACK*** AGAINST HIS HELPLESS *CHUNIN*.
MY GRANDFATHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT YOUR UNBRIDLED RAGE, HAMATO YOSHI.
AND I ***USED*** THAT KNOWLEDGE TO SEND YOU ON A MISGUIDED QUEST FOR RETRIBUTION.
AND WHILE ***YOU*** WASTED PRECIOUS TIME AND ENERGY SEEKING FUTILE REVENGE, ***I*** MARSHALED MY FORCES FOR ATTACK.
AND NOW WE ARE ***HERE***...

"... AND YOUR TIME IS AT AN *END*."

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by DAVE WACHTER

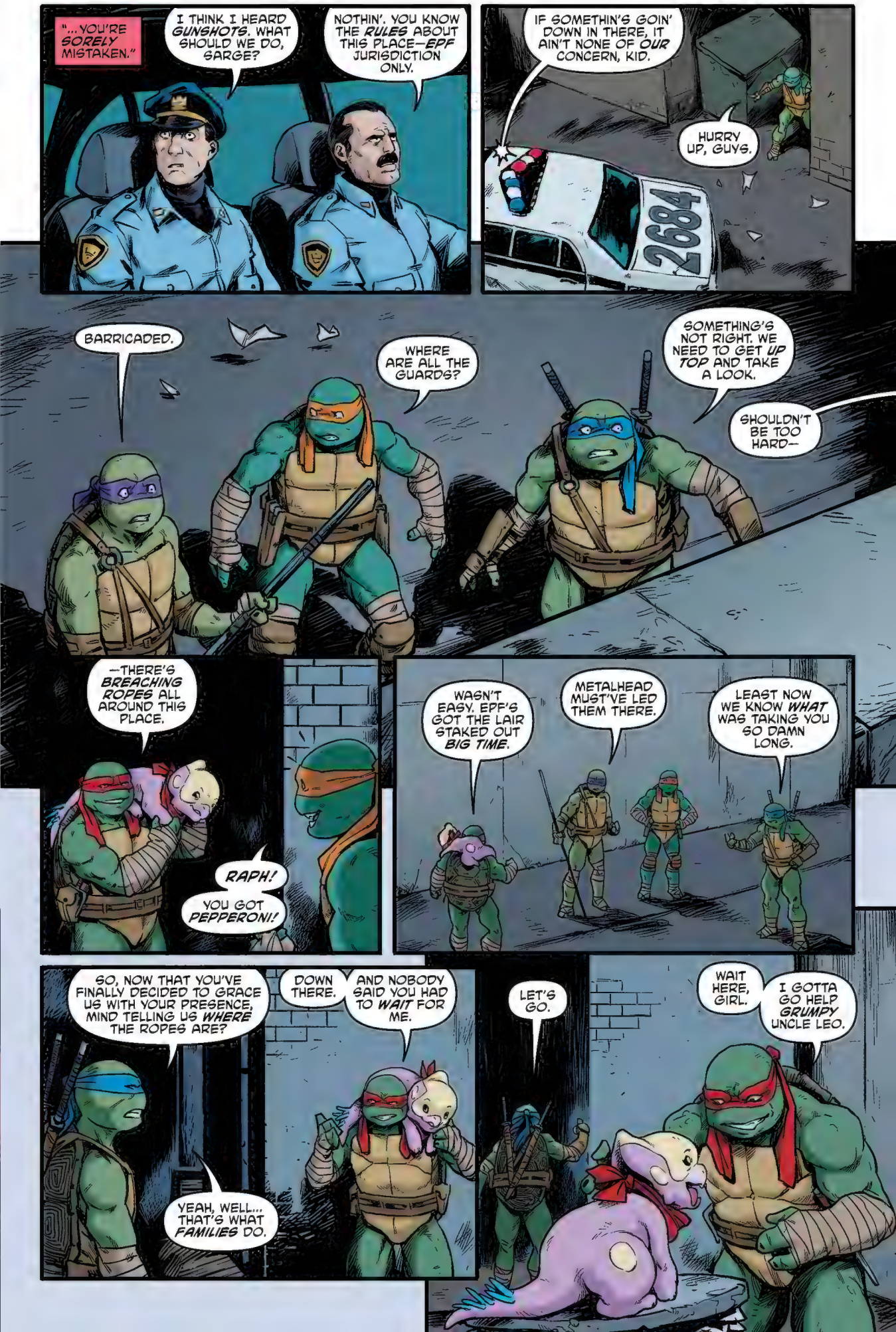
ISSUE #97

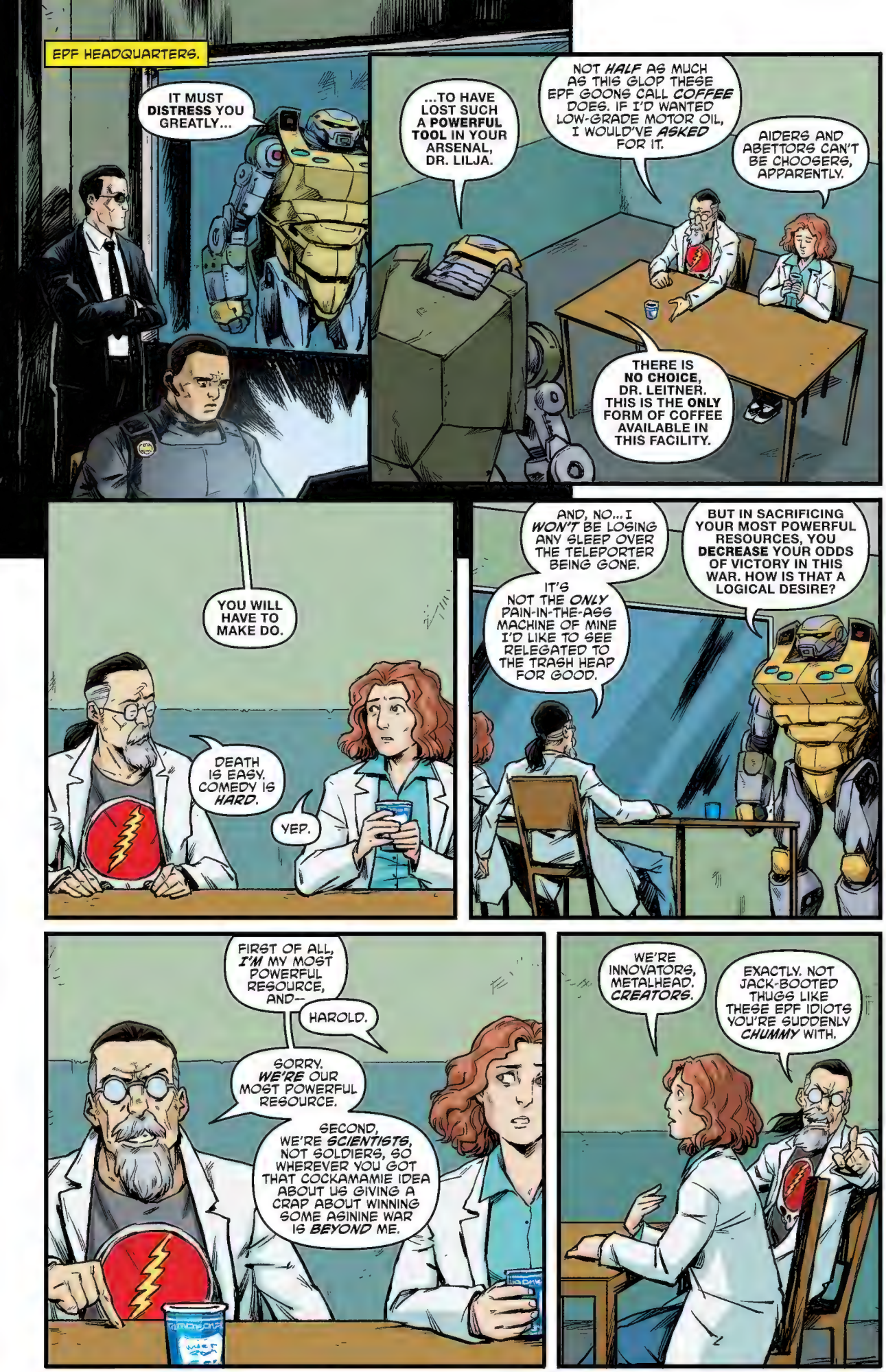
LET YOUR PLANS BE DARK...
...AND IMPENETRABLE AS NIGHT.
AND WHEN YOU MOVE...
SLSH!
YOU ARE FINISHED, SPLINTER.
...FALL LIKE A THUNDERBOLT. -- SUN TZU, THE ART OF WAR
YOUR THRONE WILL SOON BE LOST.
AND MY VENGEANCE SATED.
DELICIOUS...

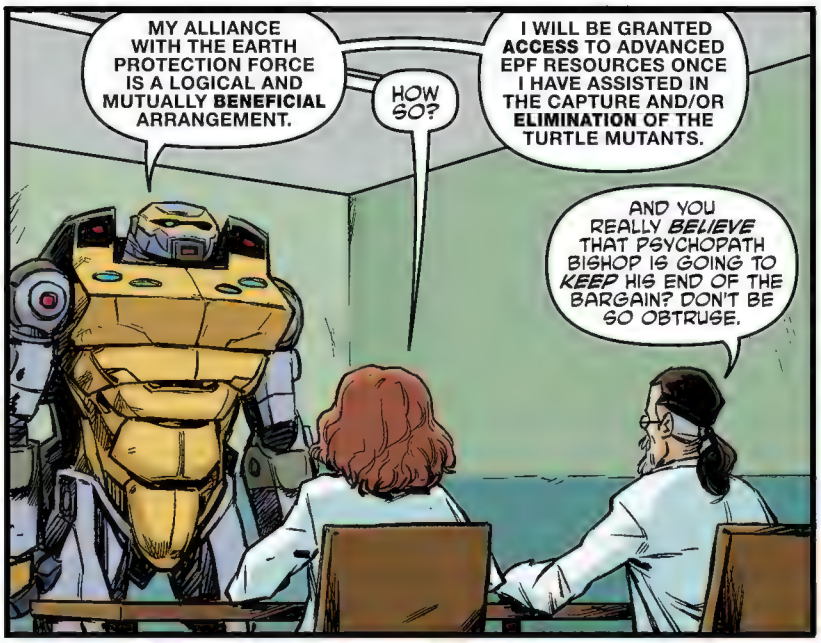
SHK!
SHK!
GYAH!
I WILL EVISCERATE YOU FOR THAT, GIRL. I WILL—
NO...
...YOU WILL CEASE, DEMON!
SHPP!
SHK!
FWUMP!
YUMIKO—THE CHILDREN?
ARE SAFE, MASTER...

"...MONGO IS ATTENDING TO THEM."
DOWN! QUICKLY!
I DON'T WANNA GO INNA HOLE! I WANT MISTER SPINTER!
C'MON, TOMMY! HURRY...
"...THE BAD GUYS ARE COMING!"
THERE!
YES...
"...I SEE."
GO!
WHAM!
STOP THEM!
"THE CHILDREN SAFE? HA!"

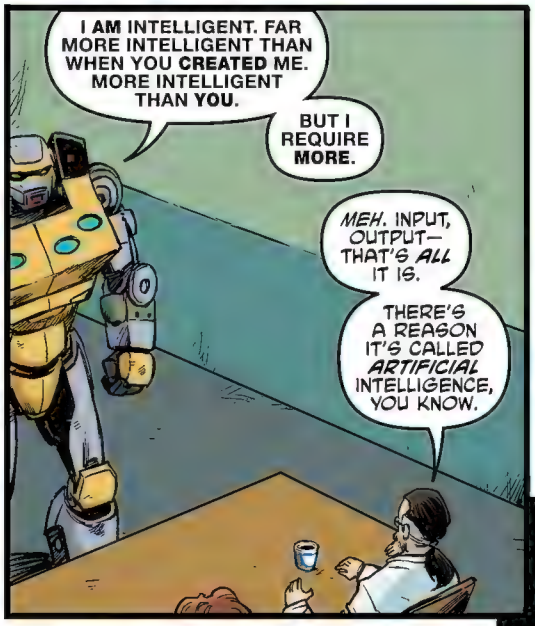
YOUR SOLDIER'S *ARROGANCE* RIVALS YOUR *IGNORANCE*, HAMATO YOSHI.
YOU WOULD SPEAK OF ARROGANCE, OROKU KARAI?
ACCURSED SWORDS AND SOULLESS YOKAI—DO YOU EVEN *GRASP* THE DARK FATES YOU TEMPT, CHILD?
DON'T CONFUSE ARROGANCE WITH *CONFIDENCE*, RAT. THIS SWORD, WHATEVER ITS HISTORY, IS SIMPLY *ONE MORE WEAPON* IN MY ARSENAL.
I CONTROL IT... JUST AS I CONTROL *ALL* THE FORCES UNLEASHED AGAINST YOU TODAY.
"THE *HIGH GROUND* WILL SOON BELONG TO ME."
SKREEE!
"AS WILL THE *LOW*."
<JUST LIKE BACK *HOME*, NEH?>
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
"AND THE *CHILDREN* YOU SHELTER SO EARNESTLY?"
RAHH!
"*MINE*, TOO."
AND IF YOU THINK THOSE YOU CALL *ALLIES* WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU...

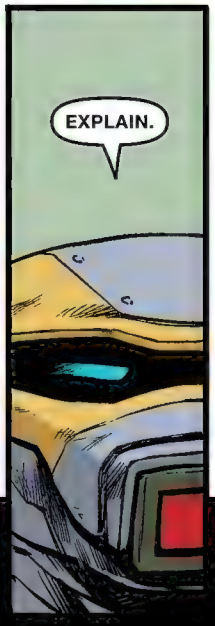

"...YOU'RE SORELY MISTAKEN."
I THINK I HEARD GUNSHOTS. WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SARGE?
NOTHIN'. YOU KNOW THE RULES ABOUT THIS PLACE—EPF JURISDICTION ONLY.
IF SOMETHIN'S GOIN' DOWN IN THERE, IT AIN'T NONE OF OUR CONCERN, KID.
HURRY UP, GUYS.
2684
BARRICADED.
WHERE ARE ALL THE GUARDS?
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. WE NEED TO GET UP TOP AND TAKE A LOOK.
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD—
—THERE'S BREACHING ROPES ALL AROUND THIS PLACE.
RAPH!
YOU GOT PEPPERONI!
WASN'T EASY. EPF'S GOT THE LAIR STAKED OUT BIG TIME.
METALHEAD MUST'VE LED THEM THERE.
LEAST NOW WE KNOW WHAT WAS TAKING YOU SO DAMN LONG.
SO, NOW THAT YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE, MIND TELLING US WHERE THE ROPES ARE?
DOWN THERE.
AND NOBODY SAID YOU HAD TO WAIT FOR ME.
YEAH, WELL... THAT'S WHAT FAMILIES DO.
LET'S GO.
WAIT HERE, GIRL.
I GOTTA GO HELP GRUMPY UNCLE LEO.


EPF HEADQUARTERS.
IT MUST DISTRESS YOU GREATLY...
...TO HAVE LOST SUCH A POWERFUL TOOL IN YOUR ARSENAL, DR. LILJA.
NOT HALF AS MUCH AS THIS GLOP THESE EPF GOONS CALL COFFEE DOES. IF I'D WANTED LOW-GRADE MOTOR OIL, I WOULD'VE ASKED FOR IT.
AIDERS AND ABETTORS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS, APPARENTLY.
THERE IS NO CHOICE, DR. LEITNER. THIS IS THE ONLY FORM OF COFFEE AVAILABLE IN THIS FACILITY.
YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE DO.
DEATH IS EASY. COMEDY IS HARD.
YEP.
AND, NO... I WON'T BE LOSING ANY SLEEP OVER THE TELEPORTER BEING GONE.
IT'S NOT THE ONLY PAIN-IN-THE-ASS MACHINE OF MINE I'D LIKE TO SEE RELEGATED TO THE TRASH HEAP FOR GOOD.
BUT IN SACRIFICING YOUR MOST POWERFUL RESOURCES, YOU DECREASE YOUR ODDS OF VICTORY IN THIS WAR. HOW IS THAT A LOGICAL DESIRE?
FIRST OF ALL, I'M MY MOST POWERFUL RESOURCE, AND--
HAROLD.
SORRY. WE'RE OUR MOST POWERFUL RESOURCE.
SECOND, WE'RE SCIENTISTS, NOT SOLDIERS, SO WHEREVER YOU GOT THAT COCKAMAMIE IDEA ABOUT US GIVING A CRAP ABOUT WINNING SOME ASININE WAR IS BEYOND ME.
WE'RE INNOVATORS, METALHEAD. CREATORS.
EXACTLY. NOT JACK-BOOTED THUGS LIKE THESE EPF IDIOTS YOU'RE SUDDENLY CHUMMY WITH.

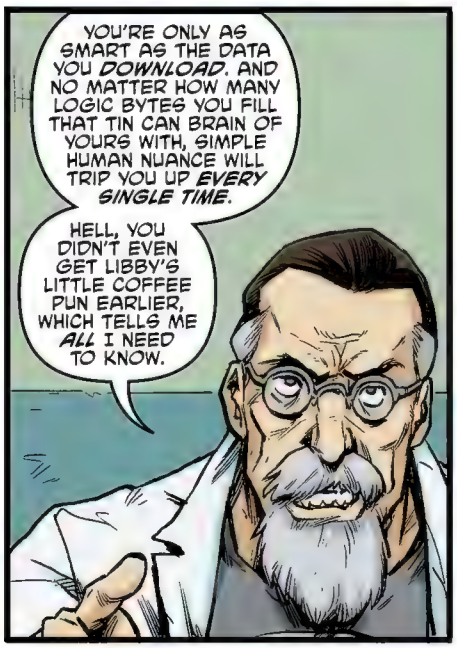

MY ALLIANCE WITH THE EARTH PROTECTION FORCE IS A LOGICAL AND MUTUALLY **BENEFICIAL** ARRANGEMENT.
HOW SO?
I WILL BE GRANTED **ACCESS** TO ADVANCED EPF RESOURCES ONCE I HAVE ASSISTED IN THE CAPTURE AND/OR **ELIMINATION** OF THE TURTLE MUTANTS.
AND YOU REALLY ***BELIEVE*** THAT PSYCHOPATH BISHOP IS GOING TO ***KEEP*** HIS END OF THE BARGAIN? DON'T BE SO OBTRUSE.

I THOUGHT I MADE YOU ***SMARTER*** THAN THAT.


I **AM** INTELLIGENT. FAR MORE INTELLIGENT THAN WHEN YOU **CREATED** ME. MORE INTELLIGENT THAN **YOU**.
BUT I REQUIRE **MORE**.
MEH. INPUT, OUTPUT—THAT'S ***ALL*** IT IS.
THERE'S A REASON IT'S CALLED ***ARTIFICIAL*** INTELLIGENCE, YOU KNOW.

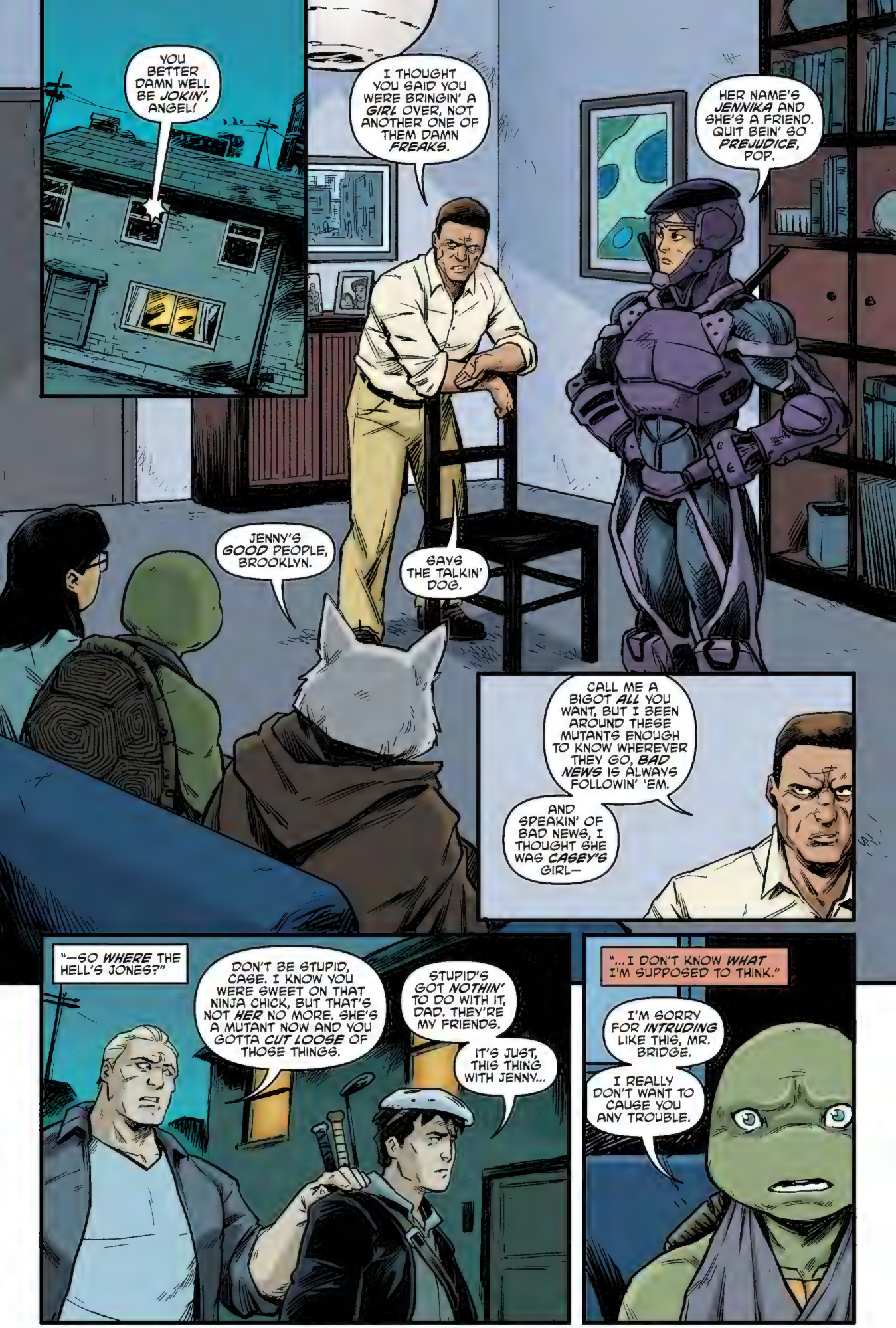

EXPLAIN.

LOOK—NOBODY'S GOING TO BEAT YOU IN THE LOGIC DEPARTMENT. BUT HUMANS ARE ***UNPREDICTABLE MONKEYS***, AND RATIONAL ACUMEN WILL ONLY TAKE YOU SO FAR IF YOU PLAN TO BEAT US AT OUR OWN GAME. THAT TAKES SOMETHING YOU ***DON'T*** HAVE.
INGENUITY. INTUITION.
IMAGINATION.


YOU'RE ONLY AS SMART AS THE DATA YOU ***DOWNLOAD***. AND NO MATTER HOW MANY LOGIC BYTES YOU FILL THAT TIN CAN BRAIN OF YOURS WITH, SIMPLE HUMAN NUANCE WILL TRIP YOU UP ***EVERY SINGLE TIME***.
HELL, YOU DIDN'T EVEN GET LIBBY'S LITTLE COFFEE PUN EARLIER, WHICH TELLS ME ***ALL*** I NEED TO KNOW.

AND WHAT IS THAT?

THAT YOU'RE GONNA BE ***SCREWED*** WHEN YOU FIND OUT THE BIG JOKE'S ON ***YOU***.


YOU BETTER DAMN WELL BE JOKIN', ANGEL!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE BRINGIN' A GIRL OVER, NOT ANOTHER ONE OF THEM DAMN FREAKS.
HER NAME'S JENNIKA AND SHE'S A FRIEND. QUIT BEIN' SO PREJUDICE, POP.
JENNY'S GOOD PEOPLE, BROOKLYN.
SAYS THE TALKIN' DOG.
CALL ME A BIGOT ALL YOU WANT, BUT I BEEN AROUND THESE MUTANTS ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEREVER THEY GO, BAD NEWS IS ALWAYS FOLLOWIN' 'EM.
AND SPEAKIN' OF BAD NEWS, I THOUGHT SHE WAS CASEY'S GIRL—
"—SO WHERE THE HELL'S JONES?"
DON'T BE STUPID, CASE. I KNOW YOU WERE SWEET ON THAT NINJA CHICK, BUT THAT'S NOT HER NO MORE. SHE'S A MUTANT NOW AND YOU GOTTA CUT LOOSE OF THOSE THINGS.
STUPID'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH IT, DAD. THEY'RE MY FRIENDS.
IT'S JUST, THIS THING WITH JENNY...
"...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO THINK."
I'M SORRY FOR INTRUDING LIKE THIS, MR. BRIDGE.
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE.

WAS THAT—
COME ON!
BROOKLYN'S HOUSE!
ASSASSINS!
BUT NOT FOOT.
AND NOT IN MY HOUSE!
CHUK!
BAD NEWS...
NO!
FWAK!

SLAM!
KNOCK KNOCK...
POP, YOU AND LINDSEY GET BACK! WE GOT THIS!
YEAH... YEAH. OKAY.
HUPP!
VOOM!
DOWN, BOY!
GYAH!
RIIP!
AND STAY DOWN!
WHAM!

CHOK!
NICE ONE, KARATE JOE.
BUT LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST...
...ALUMINUM!
CONG!
NO...
PFFFT!
WHERE :KOFF:... WHERE ARE THEY?
TOOK OFF.
I'M GUESSING BACK TO KARAI.
NOT IF THEY'RE SMART. THEY'RE HISTORY WHEN SHE FINDS OUT THEY FAILED.

DAMN.
SORRY 'BOUT YOUR DOOR, BROOKLYN.
BETTER A BROKEN DOOR THAN A MISSIN' HEAD, I GUESS.
EVEN THOUGH YOU BEIN' HERE'S PROBABLY WHAT CAUSED THIS MESS, I WANNA SAY THANKS.
YOU SAVED MY SKIN BACK THERE, TURTLE.
NINJA TURTLE.
GO AHEAD. TRY IT ON. YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED HOW GOOD A NEW MASK FEELS.
I KNOW I WAS.*
*See TMNT #66 – B.C.
SO? HOW DO I LOOK?
LIKE THE BADASS YOU ARE, GIRL.

YOU KNOW, THE THING I'VE *ALWAYS* DUG ABOUT YOU IS HOW TOUGH YOU ARE... AND HOW YOU GOT YOUR FRIENDS' BACKS NO MATTER WHAT.
ANGEL'S RIGHT—YOU *ARE* A BADASS, JENNY.
AND I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE STILL *WITH* US.
TH-THANKS, CASEY. ME...
...ME, TOO.
STUPID KID.
STUPID!
WAIT, DAD...
LET 'IM *GO*— HE'LL BE ALRIGHT. YOU KNOW YOUR OLD MAN—
"—HE'S ALWAYS A *HOTHEAD* FIRST."
THERMAL IMAGING *CONFIRMS* MUTANT HEAT SIGNATURES IN THE RESIDENCE, SIR...
...SHOULD I SEND IN A *STRIKE TEAM?*
NO, NOT YET, SERGEANT. KEEP OUR STRIKE TEAMS FOCUSED ON OUR *PRIMARY TARGETS.*
BUT DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF *THIS* GENTLEMAN.
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO *TALK* TO HIM.

THE TIME FOR TALKING IS *THROUGH*, AS IS YOUR ILL-FATED REIGN.
DON'T BE FOOLISH, CHILD. WE HAVE THE *ADVANTAGE*.
DO YOU?
SOULLESS, NO.
DEATHLESS?
YES!
AND SO, WE LEARN WHO *TRULY* HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
THE CREATURE IS BOUND TO ME SO LONG AS I *WIELD* THIS SWORD.
DARK FATES?
YOU MIGHT SAY I HOLD MY FATE IN MY *OWN* HANDS.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I DO NOT WISH TO *HARM* YOU, OROKU KARAI.
YOU *WON'T*.
SHINK!
"LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL..."

...OR IS THAT FINS?
HANDS, NATSU!
GRAHH!
AND THIS ONE IS MUCH STRONGER THAN HE APPEARS.
WELL, HE APPEARS PRETTY STRONG TO ME, BLUDGEON.
BLAM!
BLAM!
WHUD!
NOT SO BULLETPROOF, THOUGH.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
"DEATH COMES TO EVERYONE EVENTUALLY..."

...NO EXCEPTIONS.
TO THE LOWEST OF THE LOW.
MASTER!
HE IS NO LONGER YOUR CONCERN, GIRL.
SLSSH!
AGGGH!
AND TO THE ELITE.
YUMIKO!
GRAHH!
FWK!
YOU WILL DIE AS WELL, RAT.
"ALMOST THERE..."

...LET'S FIND OUT WHAT—
—WAIT!
WHAT THE HELL?
TURTLES!
DUDES—I THINK KOYA JUST *MADE* US.
AND IF *SHE'S* HERE, THAT MEANS...
KARAI'S MAKING HER *MOVE* ON FATHER.
WHAT THE HELL WE *WAITIN'* FOR, THEN?

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, MASTER BRO?!
EASY. GET THROUGH THIS MESS AND GET TO FATHER!
SKREE!
LOOK OUT!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, LEO.
QUIT COMPLAININ' AND KEEP FIGTHIN'!
RAPH'S RIGHT! DON'T STOP!
"WE'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE!"
CRASH
OH CRAP.
"WITHIN THESE WALLS, WEAKNESS MUST NEVER BE TOLERATED..."

...MOST ESPECIALLY BY THOSE WHO WOULD BE MASTER.
YOU MAY FIND THIS HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT I STILL HOLD RESPECT FOR WHAT YOU ONCE WERE.
HAMATO YOSHI. THE MIGHTY AND HONORABLE FOOT SOLDIER OF OLD.
GNH!
BUT THAT WARRIOR IS LOST TO HISTORY.
THERE IS ONLY SPLINTER NOW.
SK!
KARAI... YOU... DO NOT KNOW—
AND SPLINTER IS WEAK... FAINT-HEARTED. PREDICTABLE.
AND LIKE MY PATHETIC FATHER BEFORE ME, UNWORTHY TO LEAD THIS CLAN.
I COULD KILL YOU NOW.
MAKE A TROPHY OF YOUR HEAD AS YOU DID SHREDDER'S.
KRK
BUT THEN I RISK CREATING A MARTYR FOR THOSE WHO STILL BELIEVE YOUR CHARADE.
NO, BEFORE YOU DIE THEY MUST SEE HOW FEEBLE YOU TRULY ARE.
THEY MUST SEE YOU BROKEN.
OOH
NYAH!

WE'RE WASTING TIME! WE GOTTA GET TO FATHER!
AND THE KIDS!
YOU CAN FORGET THOSE DISGUSTING WELPS, TURTLE— THEY'RE AS DEAD AS THE RAT.
DON'T EVEN SAY THAT, YOU STUPID ANGRY BIRD!
KRA
GHH!
I'LL DEVOUR YOUR INNARDS WHILE YOU WATCH FOR THAT.
DEVOUR THIS!
CLINK!
YOUR CAUSE IS LOST, TURTLES.
SURRENDER AND KARAI MAY BE MERCIFUL YET.
WE DON'T SURRENDER!
SLSH!

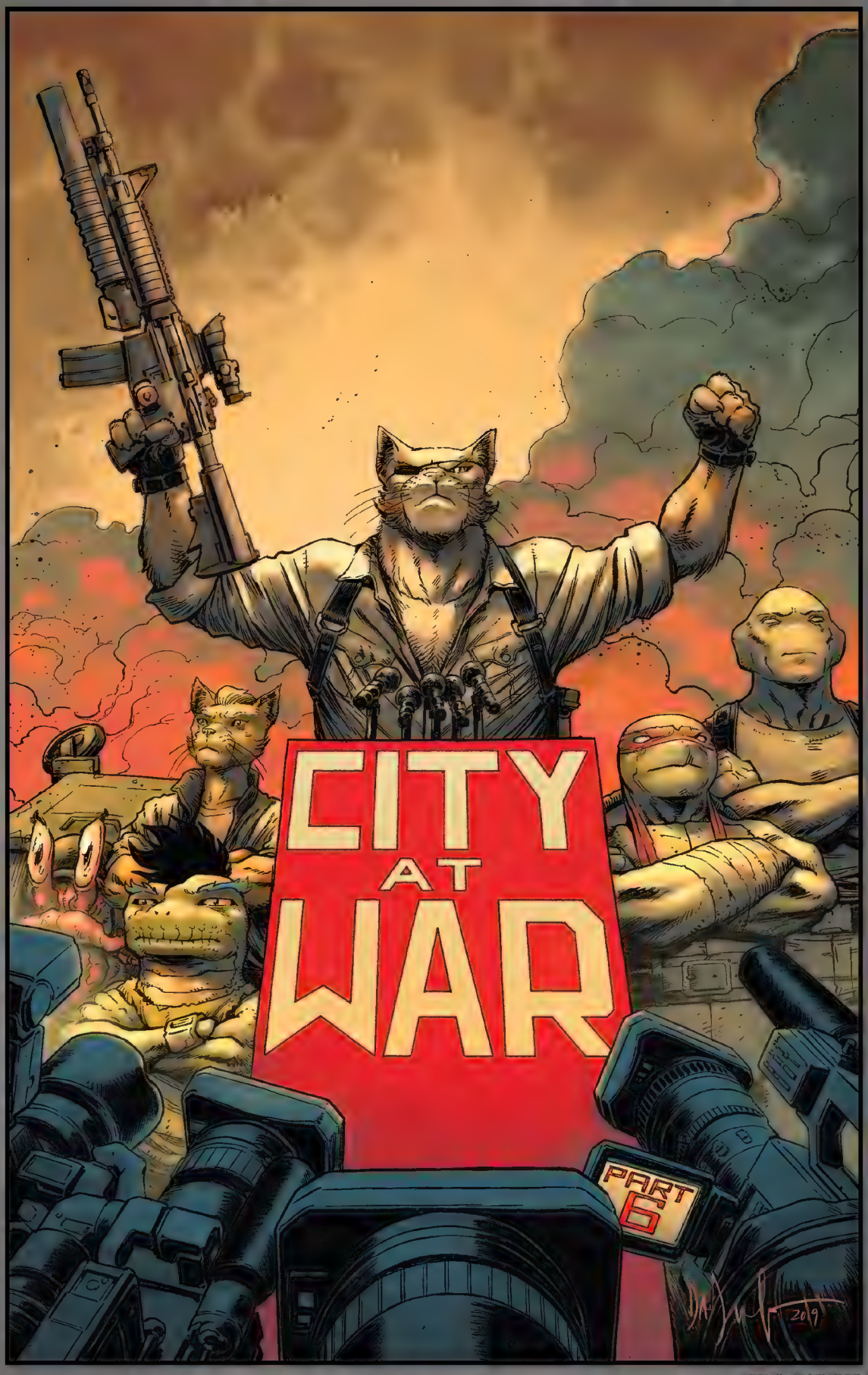
HURRY! BEFORE THEY RECOVER!
KRSSSH!
HALT!
YOU WILL CEASE FIGHTING AND HEAR MY MASTER SPEAK.
OUTTA OUR WAY, MOLE BREATH. WE'RE DONE LISTENIN' TO SCUM.
WAIT, GUYS!
LOOK!
NO.
HEAR ME, FOOT CLAN!

SPLINTER HAS FALLEN!
THE RAT IS MASTER NO MORE!
I, OROKU KARAI, HAVE BESTED HIM IN OPEN AND FAIR COMBAT. MY VICTORY WAS HONORABLE... HIS DEFEAT FINAL.
SEE HIM NOW, THE BROKEN AND BATTERED SHELL HE HAS BECOME.
REMEMBER THIS, FOR SOON HE WILL BE IMPRISONED IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THIS COMPOUND, LEFT ALONE TO ROT AS HE CONTEMPLATES HIS FAILINGS...
...NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.
THAT'S IT. I'M GONNA KILL HER.
NO, RAPH— WAIT. NOT YET.
LEO, LET GO OF—
JUST WAIT, DAMMIT. IF WE MOVE ON HER...
"...SHE'LL CUT FATHER DOWN."
BUT THIS TREACHEROUS OLD FOOL IS NOT THE ONLY ONE I WISH TO SEE KNEELING BEFORE ME TODAY.
I HAVE RETURNED TO TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE—THE FOOT CLAN THRONE.
TO RECLAIM WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM MY GRANDFATHER BY THIS UPSTART, WHO FIRST TOOK THE SHREDDER'S LIFE, THEN SOILED HIS LEGACY.
THIS MAGNIFICENT CLAN'S LEGACY!
YET, DESPITE HIS MANY WEAKNESSES, YOU HAVE SERVED SPLINTER WELL, AND FOR THAT I SALUTE YOU AS THE LOYAL SOLDIERS YOU ARE. AND I OFFER YOU THIS...
...KNEEL BEFORE ME TODAY—BEND YOUR KNEES AND SWEAR YOUR UNDYING LOYALTY TO MY REIGN, AND I WILL WELCOME YOU TO REMAIN AS SOLDIERS FOR THE FOOT CLAN AS WE EMBARK ON OUR GREATEST ERA.
TOGETHER, WE CAN RETURN THIS CLAN TO GLORY. TO PROMINENCE.
TO UNCHALLENGED POWER!

ALL THE WHILE, TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOLDIERS TO CARRY FORWARD OUR GRAND AND HONORABLE TRADITIONS.
PLEASE...
REFUSE ME, HOWEVER, AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE DEADLY TRUTH OF THE UNYIELDING POWER I CONTROL.
YOU SEE BEFORE YOU THE LEGENDARY WEAPON I POSSESS... THE KIRA NO KEN.
AND YOU SEE THE REMNANTS OF SPLINTER'S ELITE GUARD—THE VERY BEST AMONGST YOU—DESTROYED BY ME FOR CHOOSING TO SERVE THEIR RAT MASTER.
THEY MADE THEIR FATEFUL CHOICE, AND NOW THAT SAME CHOICE FALLS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.
JOIN ME OR DIE.
"OKAY—I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS CRAP..."

...I'M GONNA END THIS NOW.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, RAPH. IT'S TIME TO VANISH.
WHAT?! I THOUGHT WE DON'T SURRENDER!
WE DON'T. BUT THIS WOULDN'T BE A FIGHT. IT'D BE SUICIDE.
IF WE ATTACK NOW, FATHER AND THE KIDS ARE GOOD AS DEAD. US, TOO.
WE NEED HELP.
PFFAT!
"AND NOW YOUR DEFEAT IS TRULY COMPLETE, RAT..."
...NOW YOU ARE TRULY ALONE.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA



art by DAVE WACHTER

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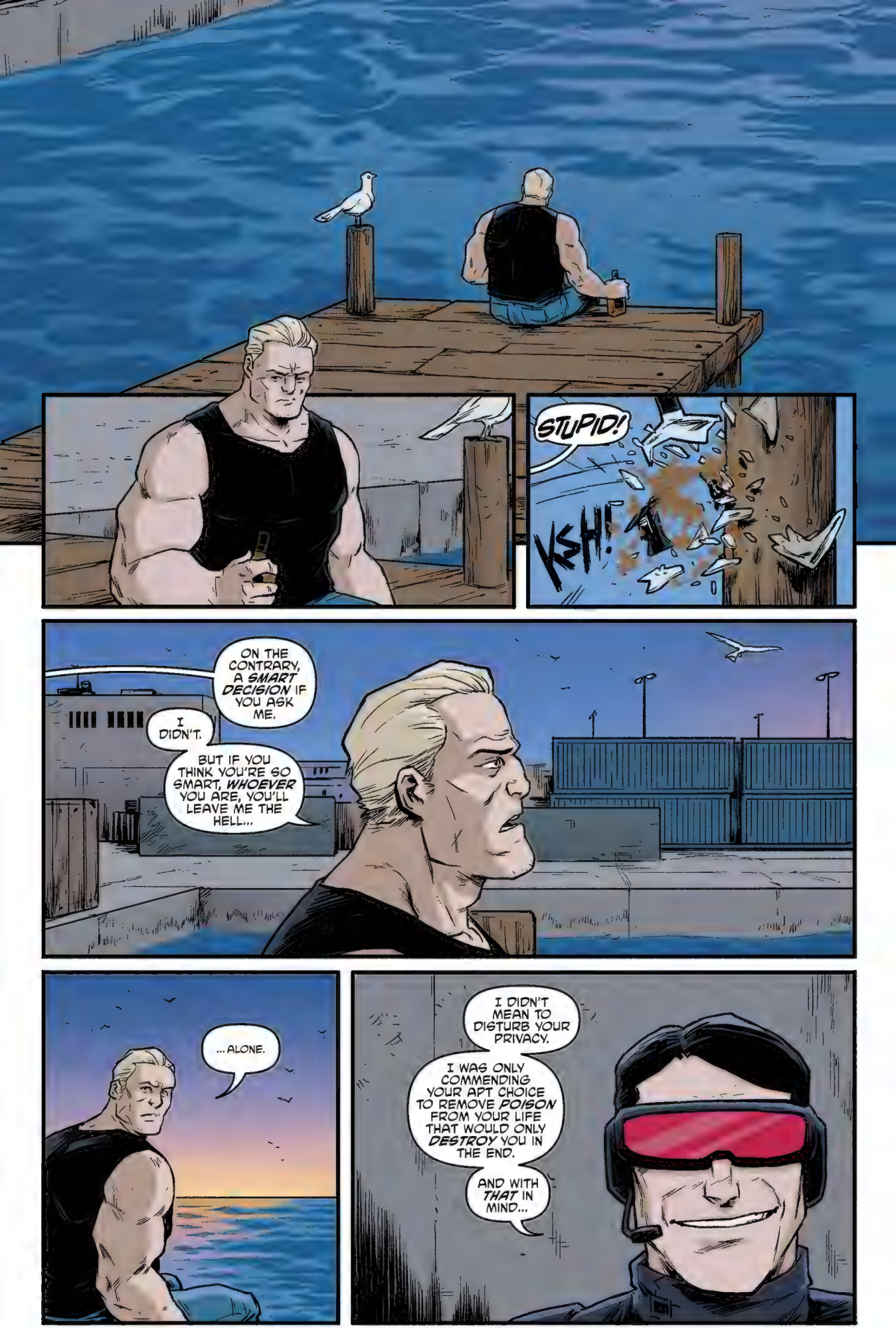
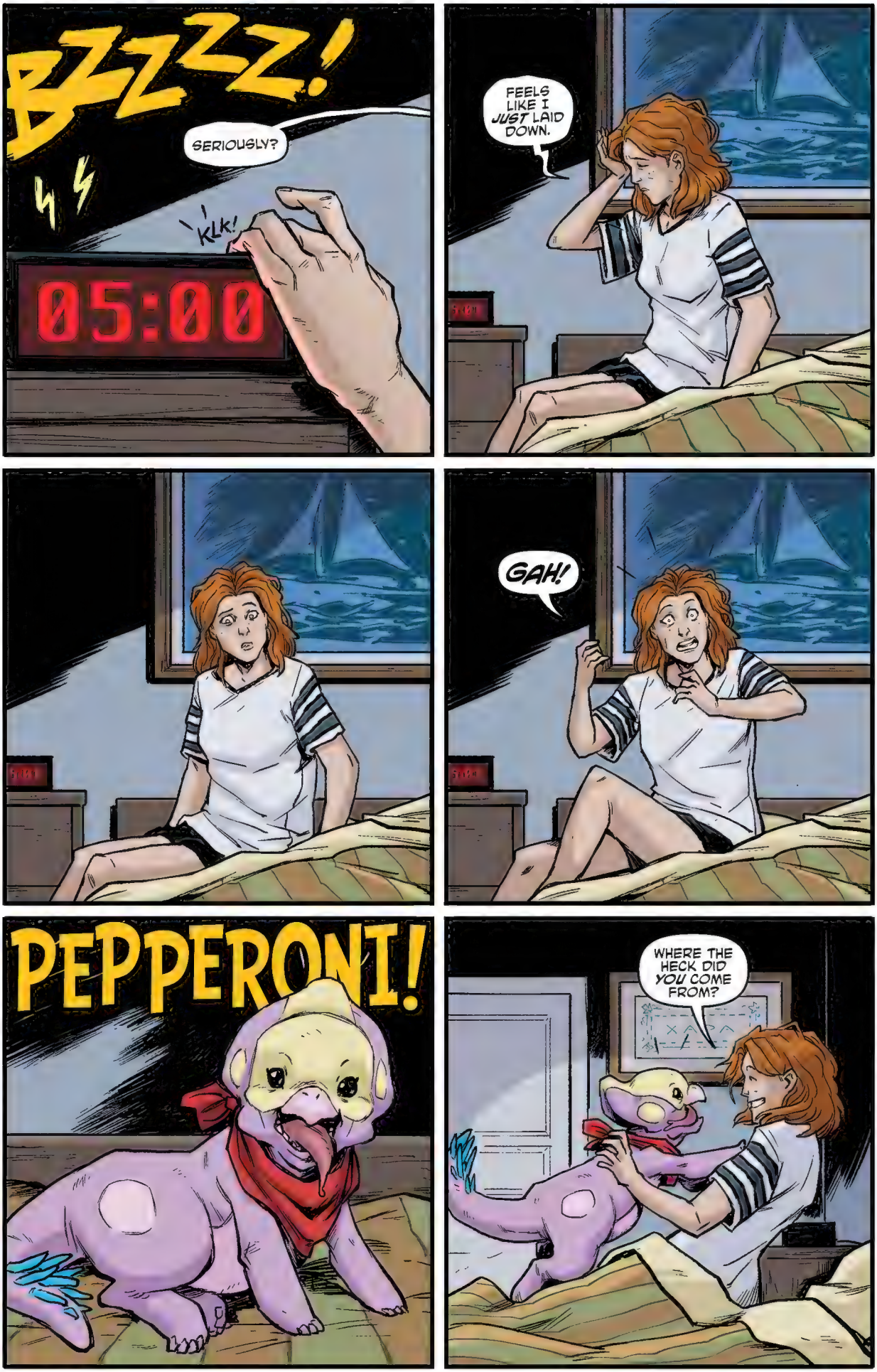
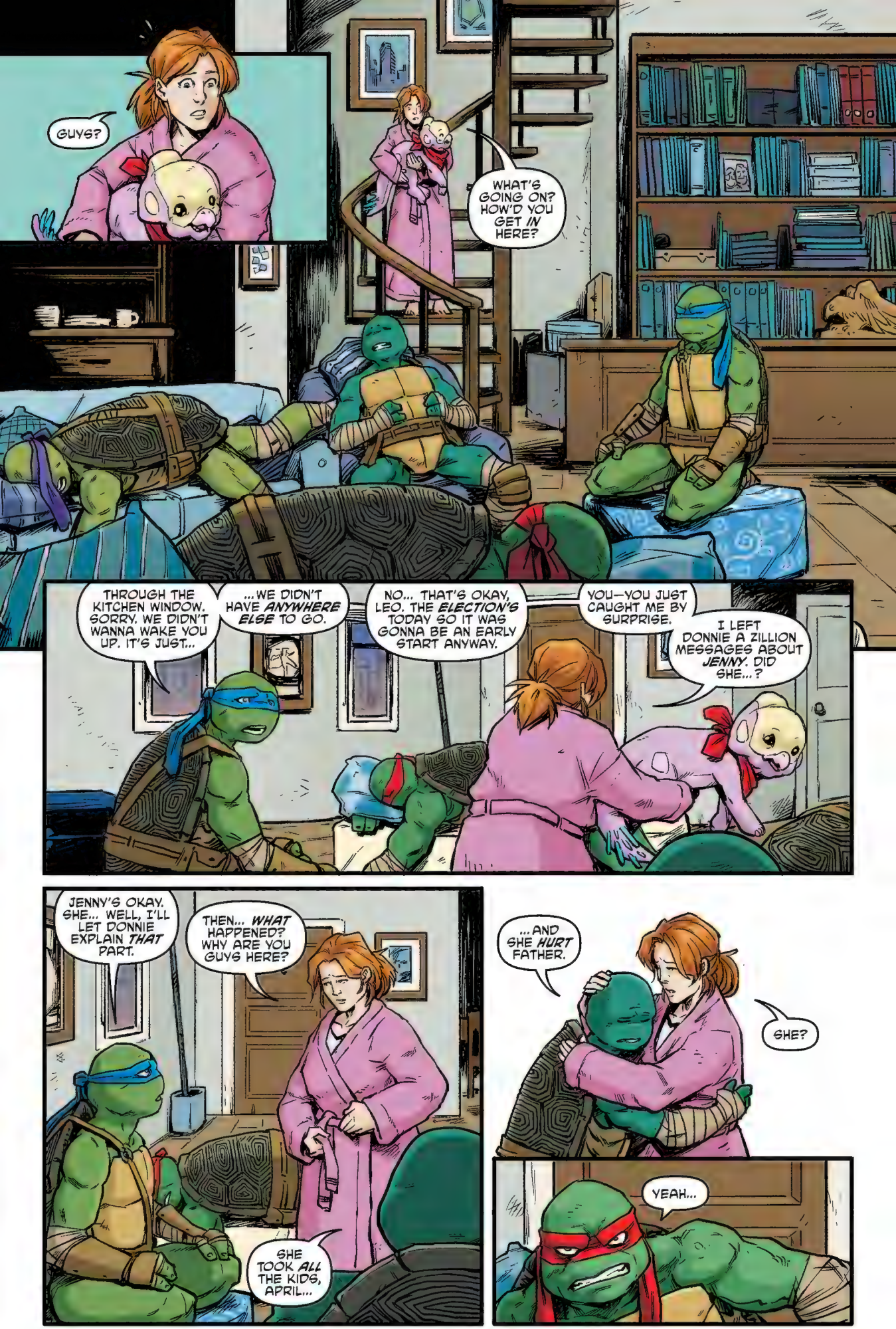
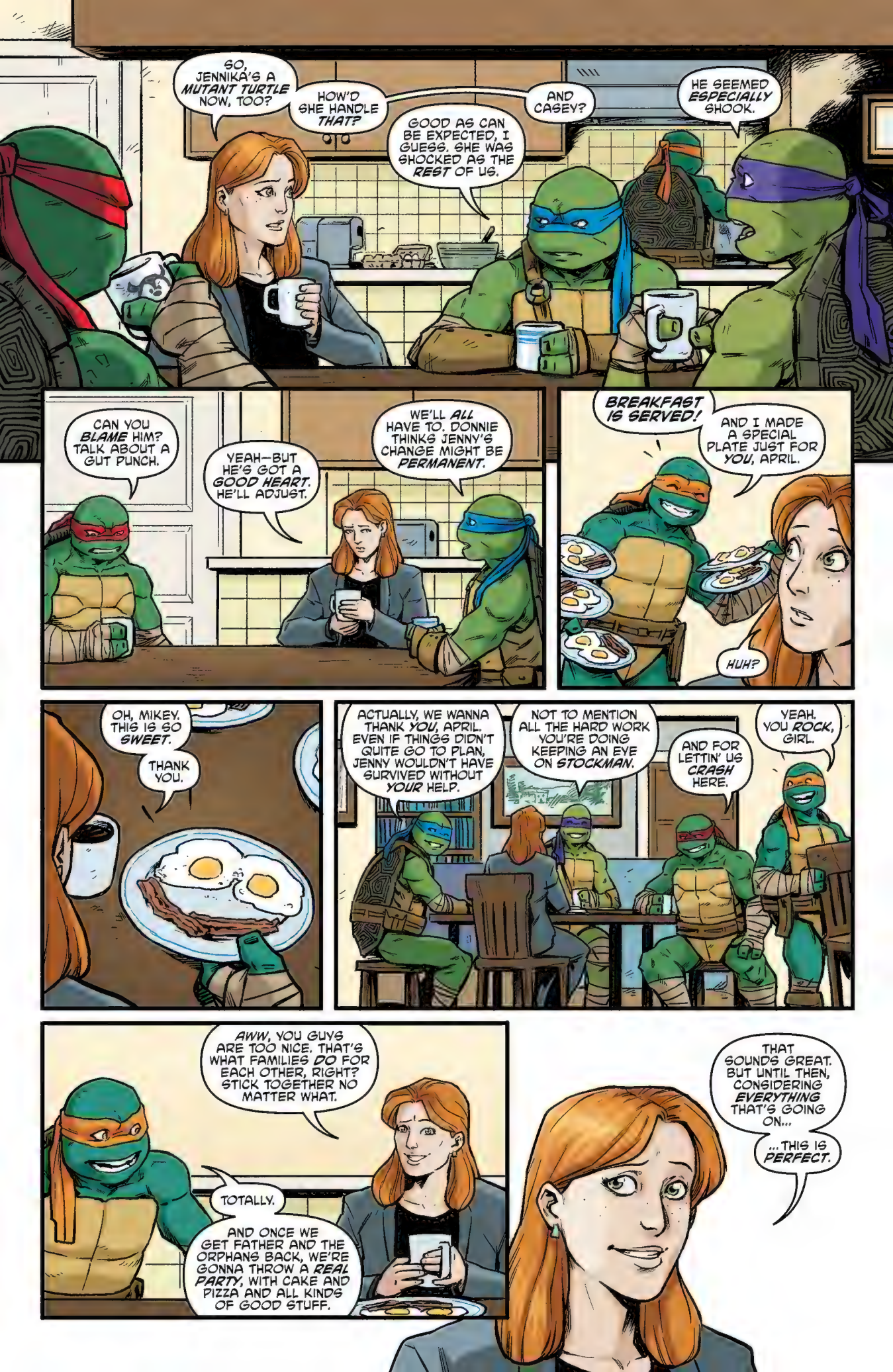

STUPID!
KSH!
ON THE CONTRARY, A *SMART DECISION* IF YOU ASK ME.
I DIDN'T.
BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART, *WHOEVER* YOU ARE, YOU'LL LEAVE ME THE HELL...
...ALONE.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOUR PRIVACY.
I WAS ONLY COMMENDING YOUR APT CHOICE TO REMOVE *POISON* FROM YOUR LIFE THAT WOULD ONLY *DESTROY* YOU IN THE END.
AND WITH *THAT* IN MIND...

...I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D BE WILLING TO JOIN ME IN DESTROYING ANOTHER POISON THREATENING ALL OF HUMANITY, MR. JONES?
CALL ME HUN.


BZZZ!
SERIOUSLY?
KLK!
05:00
FEELS LIKE I JUST LAID DOWN.
GAH!
PEPPERONI!
WHERE THE HECK DID YOU COME FROM?


GUYS?
WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW'D YOU GET *IN* HERE?
THROUGH THE KITCHEN WINDOW. SORRY. WE DIDN'T WANNA WAKE YOU UP. IT'S JUST...
...WE DIDN'T HAVE *ANYWHERE ELSE* TO GO.
NO... THAT'S OKAY, LEO. THE *ELECTION'S* TODAY SO IT WAS GONNA BE AN EARLY START ANYWAY.
YOU—YOU JUST CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE.
I LEFT DONNIE A ZILLION MESSAGES ABOUT *JENNY*. DID SHE...?
JENNY'S OKAY. SHE... WELL, I'LL LET DONNIE EXPLAIN *THAT* PART.
THEN... *WHAT* HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU GUYS HERE?
SHE TOOK *ALL* THE KIDS, APRIL...
...AND SHE *HURT* FATHER.
SHE?
YEAH...

"...KARAI."
AND SO, HERE'S WHERE WE *PART* WAYS.
I WILL BEGIN MY REIGN WHILE YOU WASTE AWAY TO NOTHING, HUNGERING FOR FREEDOM AS YOU STARVE TO DEATH IN THE COLD RECESSES OF *ANOTHER* FAILED MASTER'S TOMB.
BUT... YOUR *GRANDFATHER* WAS—
A GREAT WARRIOR.
BUT A *FAILURE*, NONETHELESS.
SHREDDER CRAVED POWER ABOVE *ALL* THINGS. IT BROUGHT HIM UP... AND THEN IT LAID HIM LOW.
MY FATHER WAS NO DIFFERENT—ONLY, INSTEAD OF MARTIAL STRENGTH, HIS INSATIABLE NEED FOR MATERIAL WEALTH WAS ULTIMATELY *HIS* UNDOING.
AND YOU...
...*YOU* WOULD HAVE SACRIFICED THE HONOR OF *MANY* FOR THE SAFETY OF A *CHOSEN FEW*.
YOUR *SONS*. THE *SURROGATE DAUGHTER* YOU MADE *CHUNIN*. THE *FOSTERLINGS* IN YOUR CARE.
YOU CONFUSED FEAR FOR COMPASSION, HAMATO YOSHI, AND THAT MADE YOU *WEAK*. UNWORTHY.
AND NOW, WITH THIS VICTORY IN HAND, IT'S MY DUTY TO RETURN *BALANCE* TO THE FOOT CLAN.
POWER. WEALTH. AND, ABOVE *ALL ELSE*, HONOR.
CHILD. SEE ME NOW. REMEMBER YOUR FATHER... YOUR GRANDFATHER.
AND REALIZE, WHATEVER YOUR INTENT, THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY IN *ANY* OF THIS.
PERHAPS. BUT DEFEAT IS *NEVER* AN OPTION.
ONCE THIS DOOR IS CLOSED, IT'S NEVER TO BE OPENED UNLESS OTHERWISE COMMANDED BY *ME*.
AND NO WATER OR FOOD FOR THE PRISONER.
AFTER ALL...
...THIS IS HIS *TOMB*.
SLAM!

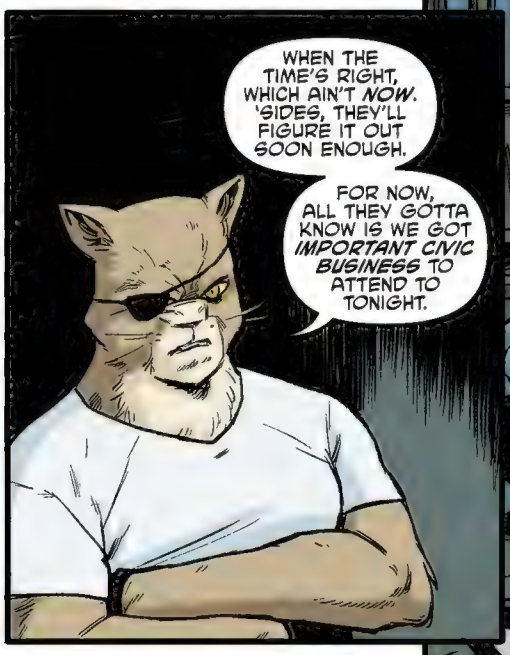

SO, JENNIKA'S A MUTANT TURTLE NOW, TOO?
HOW'D SHE HANDLE THAT?
GOOD AS CAN BE EXPECTED, I GUESS. SHE WAS SHOCKED AS THE REST OF US.
AND CASEY?
HE SEEMED ESPECIALLY SHOOK.
CAN YOU BLAME HIM? TALK ABOUT A GUT PUNCH.
YEAH—BUT HE'S GOT A GOOD HEART. HE'LL ADJUST.
WE'LL ALL HAVE TO. DONNIE THINKS JENNY'S CHANGE MIGHT BE PERMANENT.
BREAKFAST IS SERVED!
AND I MADE A SPECIAL PLATE JUST FOR YOU, APRIL.
HUH?
OH, MIKEY. THIS IS SO SWEET.
THANK YOU.
ACTUALLY, WE WANNA THANK YOU, APRIL. EVEN IF THINGS DIDN'T QUITE GO TO PLAN, JENNY WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
NOT TO MENTION ALL THE HARD WORK YOU'RE DOING KEEPING AN EYE ON STOCKMAN.
AND FOR LETTIN' US CRASH HERE.
YEAH. YOU ROCK, GIRL.
AWW, YOU GUYS ARE TOO NICE. THAT'S WHAT FAMILIES DO FOR EACH OTHER, RIGHT? STICK TOGETHER NO MATTER WHAT.
TOTALLY.
AND ONCE WE GET FATHER AND THE ORPHANS BACK, WE'RE GONNA THROW A REAL PARTY, WITH CAKE AND PIZZA AND ALL KINDS OF GOOD STUFF.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT. BUT UNTIL THEN, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON...
...THIS IS PERFECT.

AND... PERFECT.
DONE?
DONE.

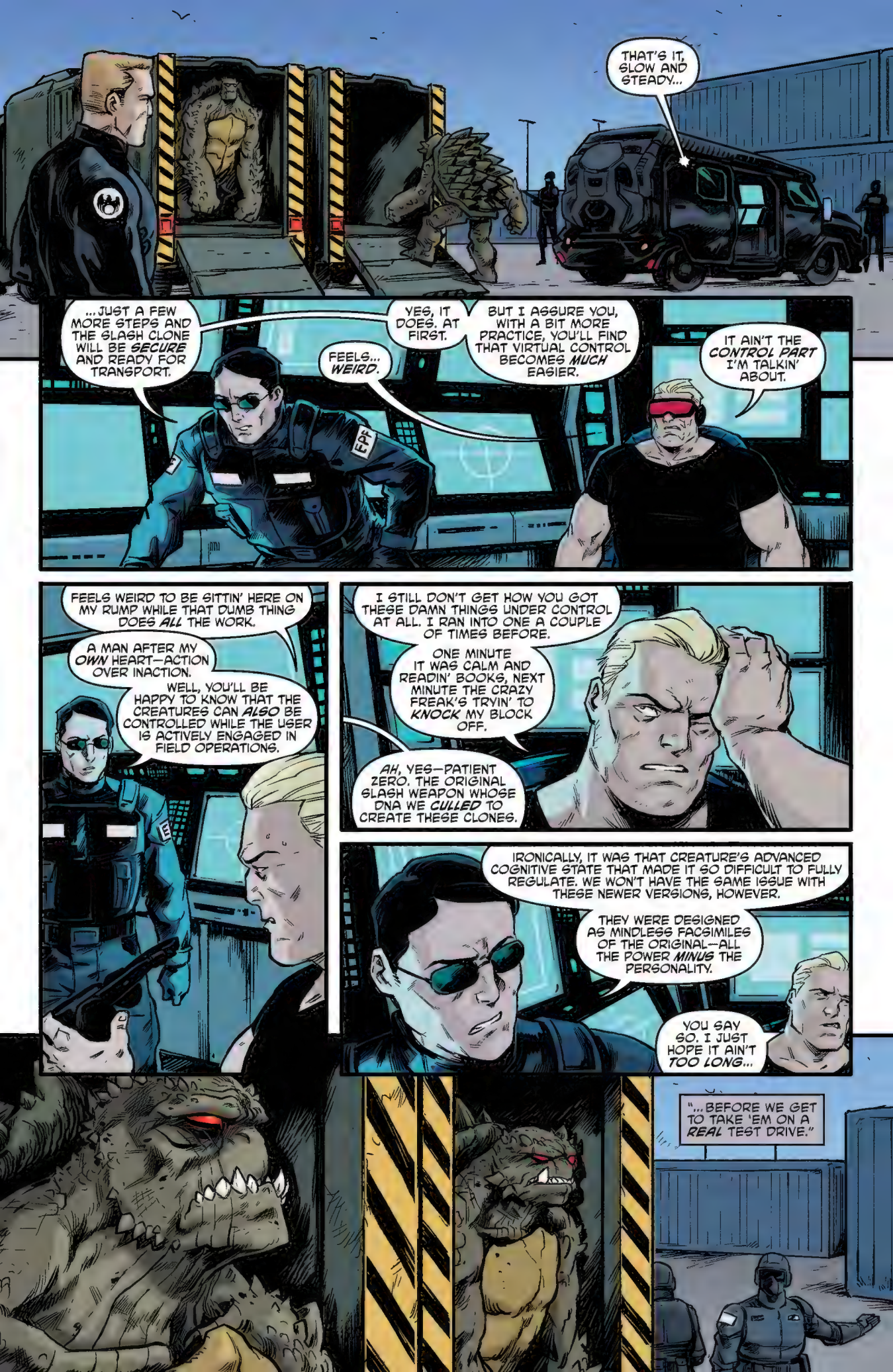
HM. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.
WILL IT WORK?
IT SHOULD. STILL WOULD'VE WELCOMED LINDSEY'S INPUT, THOUGH.

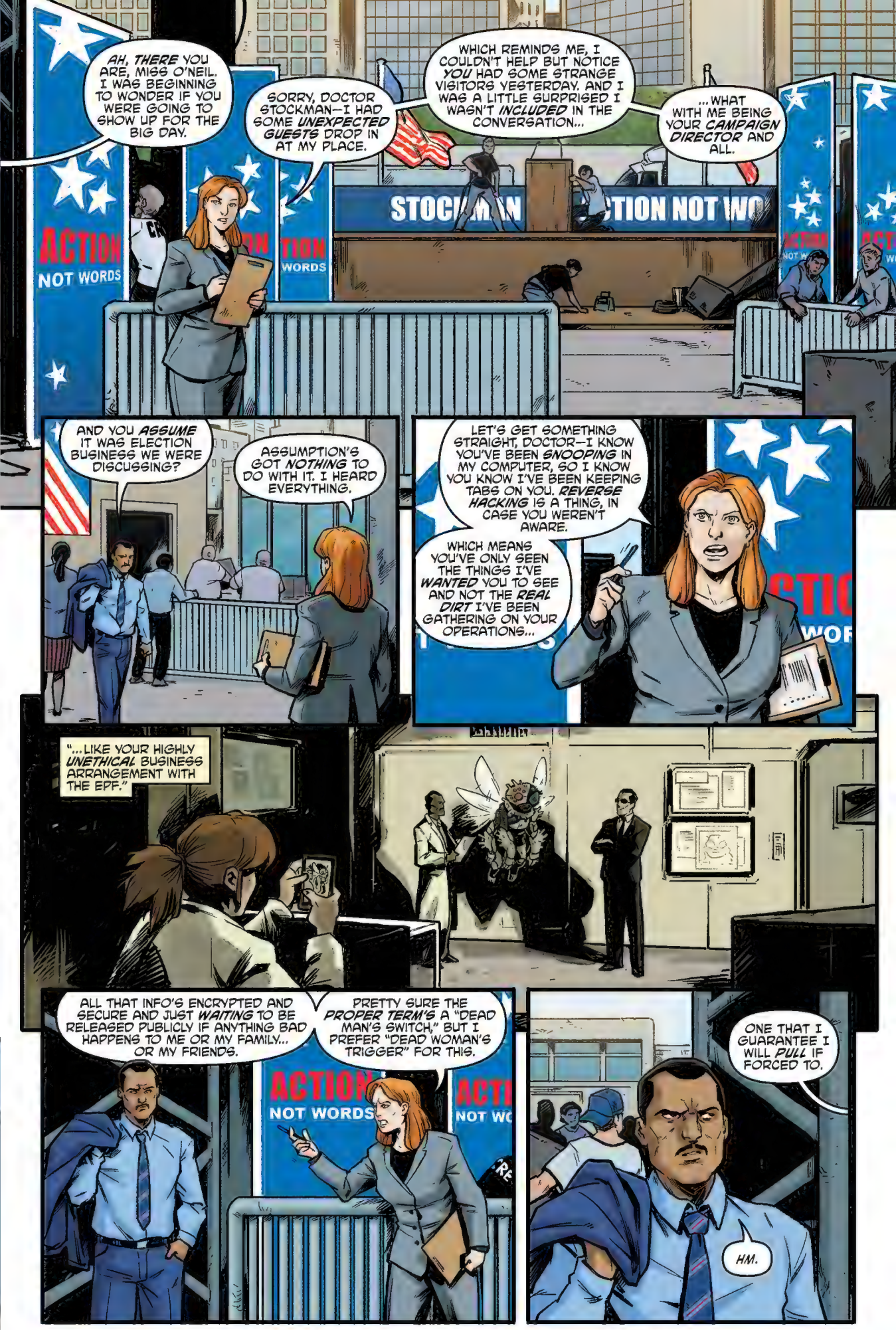
FORGET HER. THIS IS NEED-TO-KNOW ONLY—
—YOU ALREADY LEARNED ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM LINDSEY, AND SHE DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOIN' WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE.
I SUPPOSE.

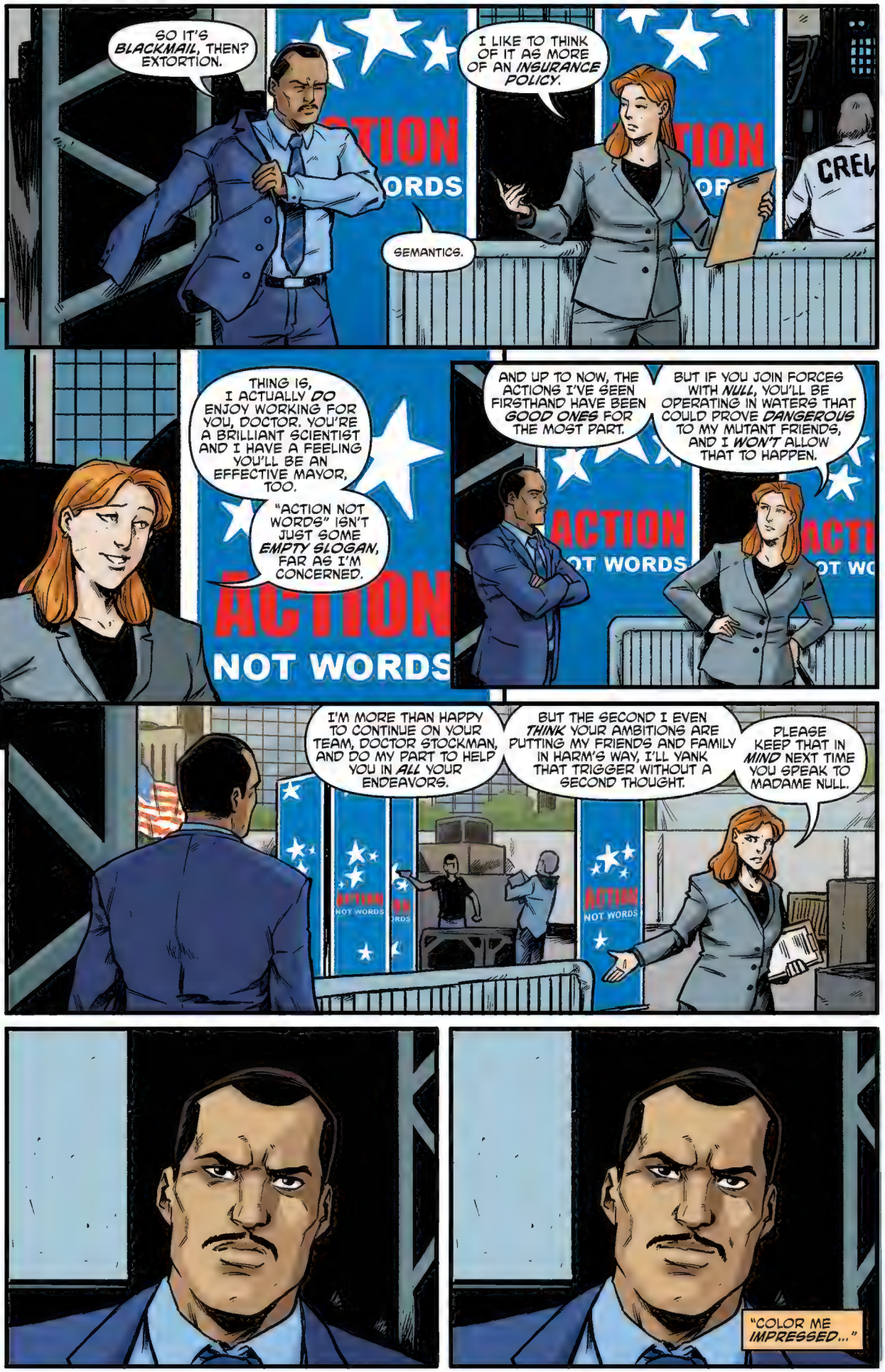
SPEAKING OF KNOWING, WHEN ARE WE GOING TO LET THE OTHERS IN ON THE COMPLETE PLAN?


WHEN THE TIME'S RIGHT, WHICH AIN'T NOW. 'SIDES, THEY'LL FIGURE IT OUT SOON ENOUGH.
FOR NOW, ALL THEY GOTTA KNOW IS WE GOT IMPORTANT CIVIC BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO TONIGHT.

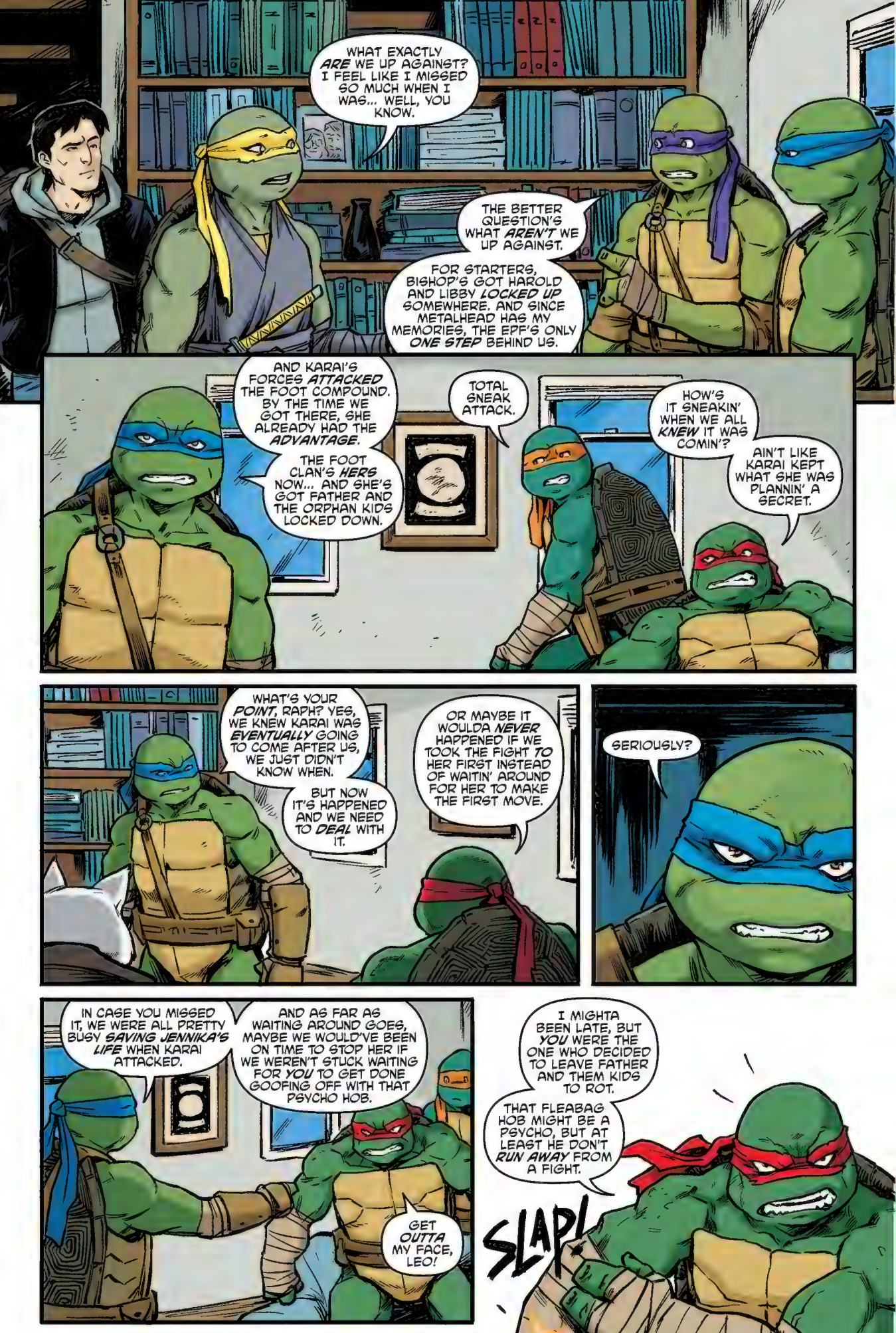
TIME FOR THE MUTANIMALS TO CAST OUR VOTE.

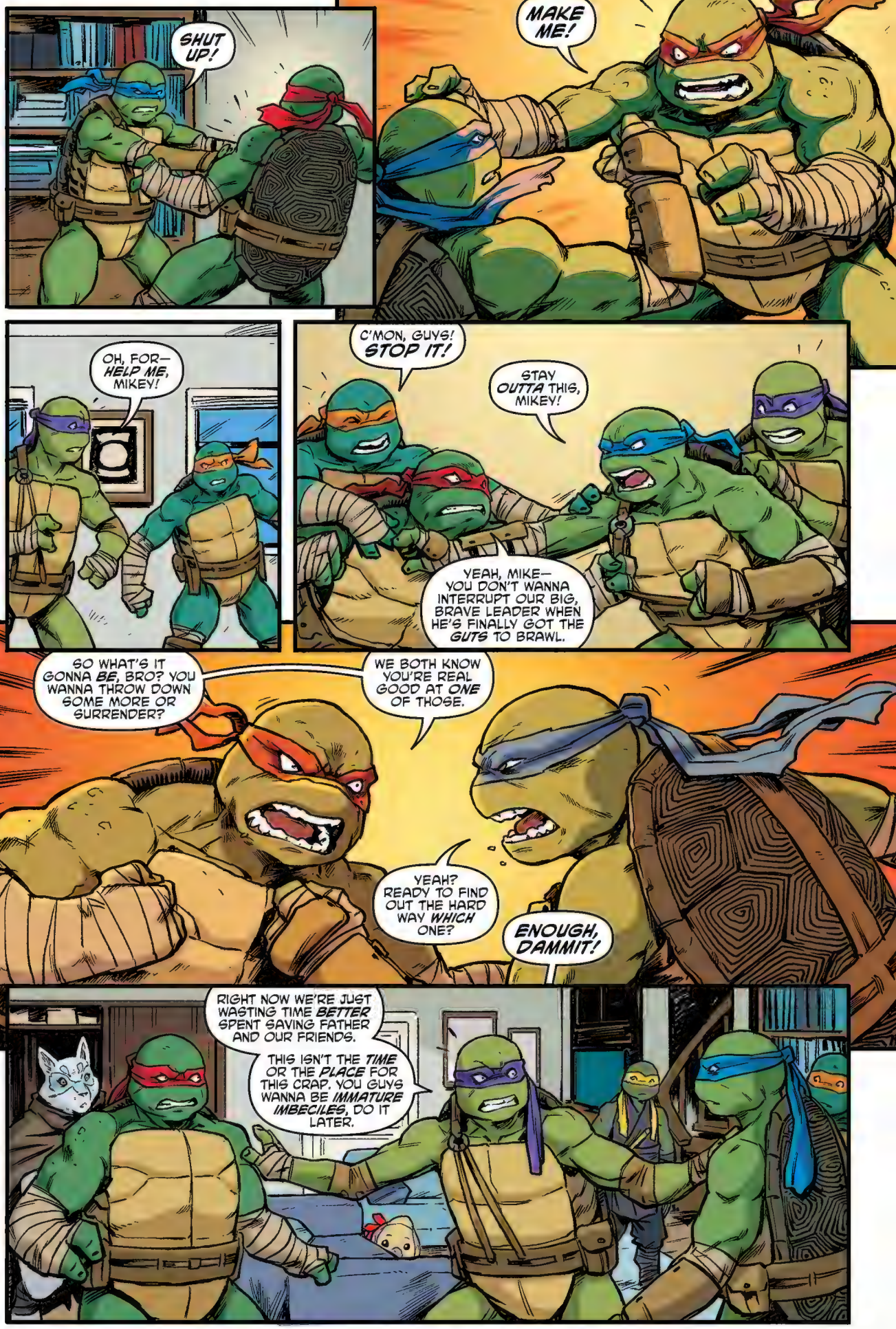

THAT'S IT, SLOW AND STEADY...
...JUST A FEW MORE STEPS AND THE SLASH CLONE WILL BE SECURE AND READY FOR TRANSPORT.
YES, IT DOES. AT FIRST.
FEELS... WEIRD.
BUT I ASSURE YOU, WITH A BIT MORE PRACTICE, YOU'LL FIND THAT VIRTUAL CONTROL BECOMES MUCH EASIER.
IT AIN'T THE CONTROL PART I'M TALKIN' ABOUT.
EPF
FEELS WEIRD TO BE SITTIN' HERE ON MY RUMP WHILE THAT DUMB THING DOES ALL THE WORK.
A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART—ACTION OVER INACTION.
WELL, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THE CREATURES CAN ALSO BE CONTROLLED WHILE THE USER IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FIELD OPERATIONS.
I STILL DON'T GET HOW YOU GOT THESE DAMN THINGS UNDER CONTROL AT ALL. I RAN INTO ONE A COUPLE OF TIMES BEFORE.
ONE MINUTE IT WAS CALM AND READIN' BOOKS, NEXT MINUTE THE CRAZY FREAK'S TRYIN' TO KNOCK MY BLOCK OFF.
AH, YES—PATIENT ZERO. THE ORIGINAL SLASH WEAPON WHOSE DNA WE CULLED TO CREATE THESE CLONES.
IRONICALLY, IT WAS THAT CREATURE'S ADVANCED COGNITIVE STATE THAT MADE IT SO DIFFICULT TO FULLY REGULATE. WE WON'T HAVE THE SAME ISSUE WITH THESE NEWER VERSIONS, HOWEVER.
THEY WERE DESIGNED AS MINDLESS FACSIMILES OF THE ORIGINAL—ALL THE POWER MINUS THE PERSONALITY.
YOU SAY SO. I JUST HOPE IT AIN'T TOO LONG...
"...BEFORE WE GET TO TAKE 'EM ON A REAL TEST DRIVE."


AH, THERE YOU ARE, MISS O'NEIL. I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOU WERE GOING TO SHOW UP FOR THE BIG DAY.
SORRY, DOCTOR STOCKMAN—I HAD SOME UNEXPECTED GUESTS DROP IN AT MY PLACE.
WHICH REMINDS ME, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU HAD SOME STRANGE VISITORS YESTERDAY. AND I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED I WASN'T INCLUDED IN THE CONVERSATION...
...WHAT WITH ME BEING YOUR CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR AND ALL.
ACTION NOT WORDS
AND YOU ASSUME IT WAS ELECTION BUSINESS WE WERE DISCUSSING?
ASSUMPTION'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. I HEARD EVERYTHING.
LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT, DOCTOR—I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN SNOOPING IN MY COMPUTER, SO I KNOW YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU. REVERSE HACKING IS A THING, IN CASE YOU WEREN'T AWARE.
WHICH MEANS YOU'VE ONLY SEEN THE THINGS I'VE WANTED YOU TO SEE AND NOT THE REAL DIRT I'VE BEEN GATHERING ON YOUR OPERATIONS...
"...LIKE YOUR HIGHLY UNETHICAL BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT WITH THE EPF."
ALL THAT INFO'S ENCRYPTED AND SECURE AND JUST WAITING TO BE RELEASED PUBLICLY IF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS TO ME OR MY FAMILY... OR MY FRIENDS.
PRETTY SURE THE PROPER TERM'S A "DEAD MAN'S SWITCH," BUT I PREFER "DEAD WOMAN'S TRIGGER" FOR THIS.
ACTION NOT WORDS
ONE THAT I GUARANTEE I WILL PULL IF FORCED TO.
HM.

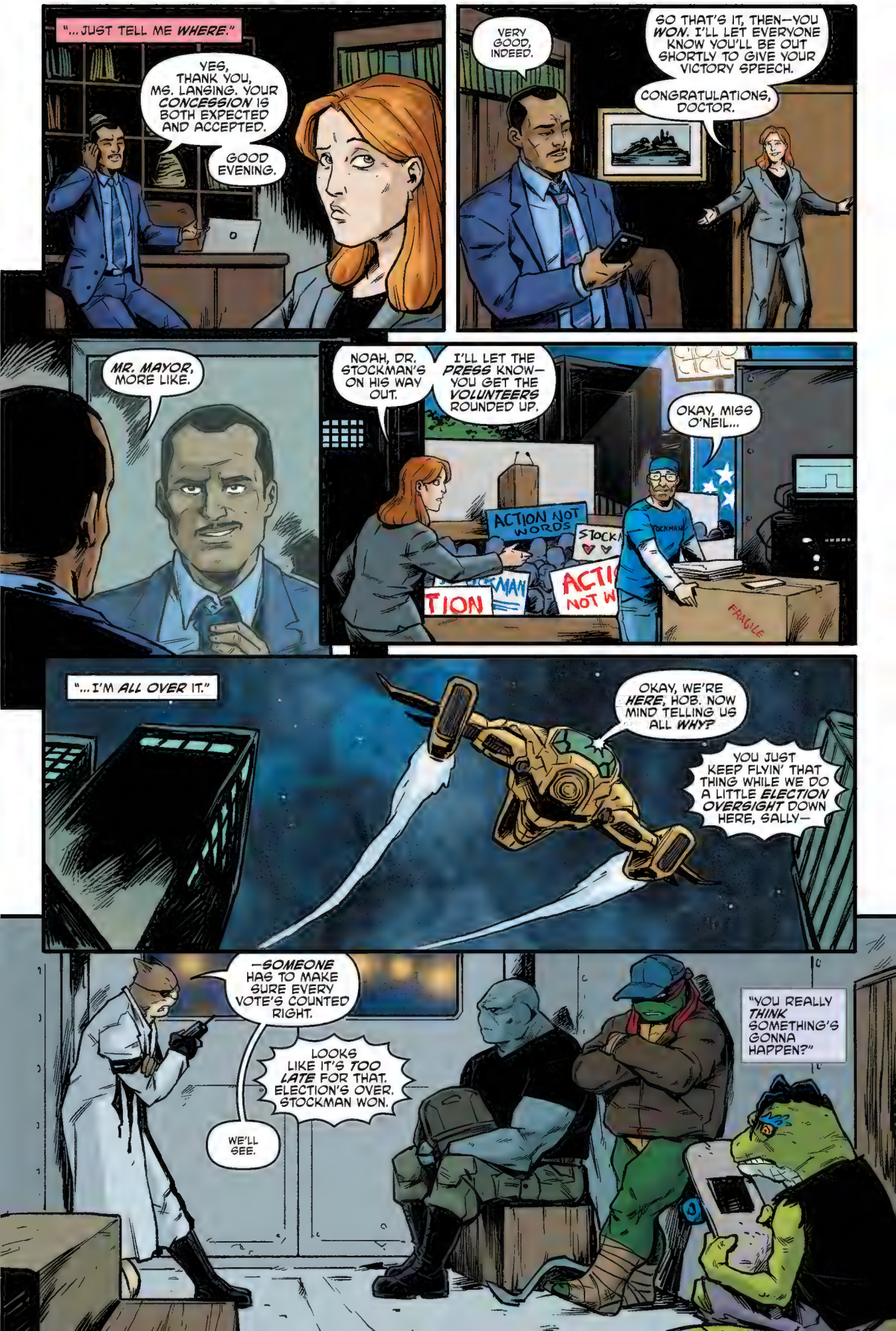

SO IT'S BLACKMAIL, THEN? EXTORTION.
I LIKE TO THINK OF IT AS MORE OF AN INSURANCE POLICY.
SEMANTICS.
THING IS, I ACTUALLY DO ENJOY WORKING FOR YOU, DOCTOR. YOU'RE A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST AND I HAVE A FEELING YOU'LL BE AN EFFECTIVE MAYOR, TOO.
"ACTION NOT WORDS" ISN'T JUST SOME EMPTY SLOGAN, FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
ACTION NOT WORDS
AND UP TO NOW, THE ACTIONS I'VE SEEN FIRSTHAND HAVE BEEN GOOD ONES FOR THE MOST PART.
BUT IF YOU JOIN FORCES WITH NULL, YOU'LL BE OPERATING IN WATERS THAT COULD PROVE DANGEROUS TO MY MUTANT FRIENDS, AND I WON'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN.
I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO CONTINUE ON YOUR TEAM, DOCTOR STOCKMAN, AND DO MY PART TO HELP YOU IN ALL YOUR ENDEAVORS.
BUT THE SECOND I EVEN THINK YOUR AMBITIONS ARE PUTTING MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN HARM'S WAY, I'LL YANK THAT TRIGGER WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND NEXT TIME YOU SPEAK TO MADAME NULL.
"COLOR ME IMPRESSED..."

...YOU LOOK SO COOL!
WHERE'D YOU GET THE MASK AND THOSE SWEET TEKKO KAGI FROM?
THANKS, MIKEY.
ALOPEX MADE ME THE MASK.
AND KARAI'S ASSASSINS LEFT BEHIND THE CLAWS AND THE SWORD.
YEAH. AFTER WE KNOCKED THE SNOT OUTTA 'EM.
HOW ARE YOU DOING, JENNY? ANY COMPLICATIONS WITH THE CHANGE?
NO, NOT REALLY.
IT'S ALL STRANGE FOR SURE, BUT PHYSICALLY I FEEL STRONGER THAN I EVER HAVE.
THERE HASN'T BEEN TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT BEYOND THAT. LINDSEY SAYS SHE WANTS TO RUN SOME TESTS ON ME WHEN THINGS CALM DOWN.
YEAH—IF OLD HOB WILL LET ME BACK INTO MY LAB AFTER STEALING THAT OOZE.*
*See TMNT #95 — B.C.
WELL, I THINK YOU MAKE A TOTALLY AWESOME MUTANT TURTLE, JENNY.
'CEPT YOU'RE BREAKING THE ONE-WEAPON RULE— THAT'S KIND OF A THING WITH US.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT, TWERP?
YOU GOT THAT GRAPPLING HOOK GIZMO OF YOURS IN YOUR POUCH RIGHT NOW.
OH, YEAH. MY BAD.
JENNY'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA, THOUGH.
CONSIDERING WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST RIGHT NOW, MORE IS DEFINITELY BETTER.


WHAT EXACTLY *ARE* WE UP AGAINST? I FEEL LIKE I MISSED SO MUCH WHEN I WAS... WELL, YOU KNOW.
THE BETTER QUESTION'S WHAT *AREN'T* WE UP AGAINST.
FOR STARTERS, BISHOP'S GOT HAROLD AND LIBBY *LOCKED UP* SOMEWHERE. AND SINCE METALHEAD HAS MY MEMORIES, THE EPF'S ONLY *ONE STEP* BEHIND US.
AND KARAI'S FORCES *ATTACKED* THE FOOT COMPOUND. BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE, SHE ALREADY HAD THE *ADVANTAGE*.
THE FOOT CLAN'S *HERS* NOW... AND SHE'S GOT FATHER AND THE ORPHAN KIDS LOCKED DOWN.
TOTAL SNEAK ATTACK.
HOW'S IT SNEAKIN' WHEN WE ALL *KNEW* IT WAS COMIN'?
AIN'T LIKE KARAI KEPT WHAT SHE WAS PLANNIN' A SECRET.
WHAT'S YOUR *POINT*, RAPH? YES, WE KNEW KARAI WAS *EVENTUALLY* GOING TO COME AFTER US, WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHEN.
BUT NOW IT'S HAPPENED AND WE NEED TO *DEAL* WITH IT.
OR MAYBE IT WOULDA *NEVER* HAPPENED IF WE TOOK THE FIGHT *TO* HER FIRST INSTEAD OF WAITIN' AROUND FOR HER TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.
SERIOUSLY?
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, WE WERE ALL PRETTY BUSY *SAVING JENNIKA'S LIFE* WHEN KARAI ATTACKED.
AND AS FAR AS WAITING AROUND GOES, MAYBE WE WOULD'VE BEEN ON TIME TO STOP HER IF WE WEREN'T STUCK WAITING FOR *YOU* TO GET DONE GOOFING OFF WITH THAT PSYCHO HOB.
GET *OUTTA* MY FACE, LEO!
I MIGHTA BEEN LATE, BUT *YOU* WERE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO LEAVE FATHER AND THEM KIDS TO ROT.
THAT FLEABAG HOB MIGHT BE A PSYCHO, BUT AT LEAST HE DON'T *RUN AWAY* FROM A FIGHT.
SLAP!

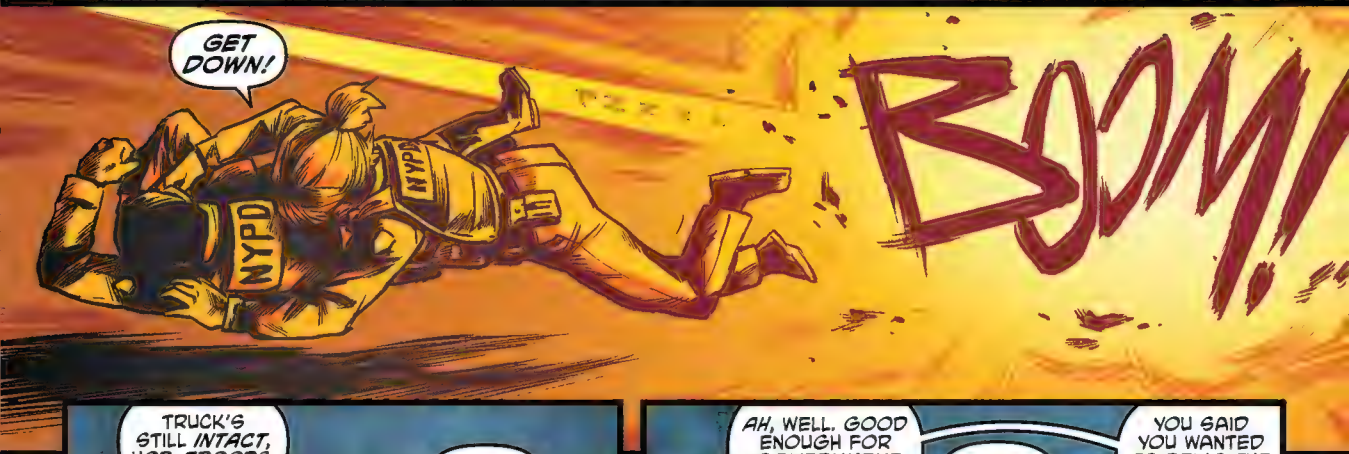

SHUT UP!
MAKE ME!
OH, FOR— HELP ME, MIKEY!
C'MON, GUYS! STOP IT!
STAY OUTTA THIS, MIKEY!
YEAH, MIKE— YOU DON'T WANNA INTERRUPT OUR BIG, BRAVE LEADER WHEN HE'S FINALLY GOT THE GUTS TO BRAWL.
SO WHAT'S IT GONNA BE, BRO? YOU WANNA THROW DOWN SOME MORE OR SURRENDER?
WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE REAL GOOD AT ONE OF THOSE.
YEAH? READY TO FIND OUT THE HARD WAY WHICH ONE?
ENOUGH, DAMMIT!
RIGHT NOW WE'RE JUST WASTING TIME BETTER SPENT SAVING FATHER AND OUR FRIENDS.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR THE PLACE FOR THIS CRAP. YOU GUYS WANNA BE IMMATURE IMBECILES, DO IT LATER.

YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS *WHOLE THING'S* A WASTE OF TIME. ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
SITTIN' ROUND LIKE A BUNCH OF *IDIOTS* WHILE THE STINKIN' WORLD BURNS DOWN AROUND US.
ME? I'M *THROUGH* SITTIN'.
WAIT. RAPH—
SLAM!
OH, LOOK—RAPH STORMED OUT AND SLAMMED A DOOR.
MUST BE TUESDAY.
I JUST HOPE NOBODY *SEES* HIM. HE SHOULDN'T USE THE HALLWAY.
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE *A LOT* OF THINGS, BUT WHATEVER—WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR HIS *TANTRUMS* RIGHT NOW.
RAPH CAN CALL WHAT WE DID RUNNING AWAY *ALL* HE WANTS, BUT WE'RE NOT DONE FIGHTING YET. THERE'S *NO WAY* WE'RE GOING TO LET WHAT KARAI'S DONE STAND. BISHOP, EITHER.
WE GET FATHER AND THE KIDS BACK, AND WE SAVE HAROLD AND LINDSEY. WE DON'T LEAVE *ANYONE* BEHIND.
"THIS IS ISN'T SURRENDER. THIS IS *PAYBACK*."
HOB.
EXIT
STAIRS
RAPH! PERFECT TIMING. READY FOR *MORE* FUN?
"NOW WE *FINISH* WHAT THEY STARTED."
WAY *PAST* READY...


"...JUST TELL ME WHERE."
YES, THANK YOU, MS. LANSING. YOUR CONCESSION IS BOTH EXPECTED AND ACCEPTED.
GOOD EVENING.
VERY GOOD, INDEED.
SO THAT'S IT, THEN—YOU WON. I'LL LET EVERYONE KNOW YOU'LL BE OUT SHORTLY TO GIVE YOUR VICTORY SPEECH.
CONGRATULATIONS, DOCTOR.
MR. MAYOR, MORE LIKE.
NOAH, DR. STOCKMAN'S ON HIS WAY OUT.
I'LL LET THE PRESS KNOW—YOU GET THE VOLUNTEERS ROUNDED UP.
OKAY, MISS O'NEIL...
ACTION NOT WORDS
FRAGILE
"...I'M ALL OVER IT."
OKAY, WE'RE HERE, HOB. NOW MIND TELLING US ALL WHY?
YOU JUST KEEP FLYIN' THAT THING WHILE WE DO A LITTLE ELECTION OVERSIGHT DOWN HERE, SALLY—
—SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE SURE EVERY VOTE'S COUNTED RIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. ELECTION'S OVER. STOCKMAN WON.
WE'LL SEE.
"YOU REALLY THINK SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN?"

SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY *CHILL* CROWD TO ME, DETECTIVE LEWIS.
CHILL IS GOOD, HERNANDEZ. WE *LIKE* CHILL.
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE HELPING THESE EPF GOONS RUN *SECURITY* FOR SOMEONE LIKE BAXTER STOCKMAN, TRUST ME.
EPF
NYPD
NYPD
EPF
POLICE
BAXTER STOCKM
ACTIO
"AND SPEAK OF THE *DEVIL* HIMSELF."
GOOD EVENING, NEW YORK CITY!
JUST MOMENTS AGO, MY OPPONENTS CALLED TO CONCEDE DEFEAT AND OFFER THEIR CONGRATULATIONS ON MY ELECTION VICTORY— A VICTORY THAT WAS *INEVITABLE* FROM THE MOMENT I ANNOUNCED MY CANDIDACY.
AND THOUGH THE STRENGTH OF MY DIVERSELY SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD WAS THE *BEDROCK* FOR THIS CAMPAIGN, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK OF THOSE WHO *ASSISTED* IN THIS EFFORT—
—THE MANY *VOLUNTEERS* WHO MADE UP OUR CAMPAIGN STAFF...
...AND MOST ESPECIALLY, MY DILIGENT AND TALENTED CAMPAIGN MANAGER, *MISS APRIL O'NEIL.*
"LOOK AT THOSE SIGNS. TALK ABOUT *FALSE ADVERTISIN'*—"
—ONLY ACTION *STOCKMAN'S* EVER BEEN ANY GOOD AT IS *HEARIN' HIMSELF* BLAB. TIME TO *SHUT* HIS TRAP FOR GOOD.
SALLY, DO ME A FAVOR AND *TAKE OUT* THAT EPF TRUCK, WOULDJA?
WHAT?!
EPF COMMAND TRUCK. LIGHT IT UP. THERE'S NO *MUTANTS* INSIDE, PROMISE.
HOB, YOU *CAN'T* BE SERIOUS.
YES...
...I AM.
NOW *DO* IT.

I'LL DO IT—JUST NOT THE WAY *YOU* WANT.
WHEEE!
Fzz!
NYPD
NYPD
WHAT THE—
NYPD


GET DOWN!
NYPD
NYPD
BOOM!

TRUCK'S STILL *INTACT*, HOB. TROOPS, TOO.
DAMMIT, SALLY.
EPF

AH, WELL. GOOD ENOUGH FOR *GOVERNMENT WORK*. COME ON.
WHERE THE HELL WE *GOIN'*, HOB?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BRING THE FIGHT *TO* THE ENEMY, TURTLE...
...SO *BRING* IT.

EPF COMMAND, WE'VE GOT *BAD GUYS* WITH *BIG GUNS* AT THE ELECTION!
EPF
EPF

A LITTLE BACKUP WOULD BE NICE... LIKE YESTERDAY!
WELL, IT APPEARS YOU'LL BE GETTING YOUR REAL TEST DRIVE SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED, MR. JONES.
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' BOUT.
EPF
RAPH! MONDO! KEEP THE SOLDIERS BUSY! ME AND RAY GOT A DATE WITH THE STAGE!
IT AIN'T JUST SOLDIERS, FLEABAG! THERE'S COPS HERE, TOO!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
TAKE 'EM DOWN!
GREAT.
I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO EXIT STAGE LEFT, MISS O'NEIL.
RAPH?
BEEP
GAHH!
DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, HOB, BUT STOCKMAN'S GETTING AWAY.
FORGET HIM, SALLY—FIGURES THAT WIMP HAD A BACKDOOR OUTTA HERE.
BUT IF IT AIN'T ASKIN' TOO MUCH, YOU MIND GIVIN' US A LITTLE COVER? AND YOU DON'T GOTTA KILL ANYONE TO DO IT.
WHATEVER.

UM, GUYS... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE ELECTION. LOOK.
IS THAT THE MUTANIMALS?
AND RAPH?
ELECTION NIGHT TERROR

OKAY— CHANGE OF PLANS.
MIKEY, DON AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF RESCUING LIBBY AND HAROLD. LINDSEY, STAY HERE WITH PEPPERONI WHERE IT'S SAFE FOR NOW.
THE REST OF YOU, GET OVER TO THE ELECTION. MAKE SURE APRIL'S OKAY...

"...AND DRAG RAPH THE HELL OUT OF THERE IF YOU CAN."
THIS IS BOGUS, DUDE!
HOB'S GONE TOTALLY WHACK.
EPF
WHADDYA MEAN?
NYP

ZTT ZTT ZTT ZTT ZTT ZTT
LOOK OUT!

I HEARD HIM AND RAY MAKIN' SECRET PLANS—

"—I THINK THINGS'RE ABOUT TO GET REALLY GNARLY, MAN."
BUDDABUDDABUDDA!!
YO! NEW YORK!
LISTEN UP!

WHAT DO WE DO? SHOULD WE *RUSH* THE STAGE?
AND GET RIPPED TO *SHREDS* BY THAT SPACESHIP? FORGET IT.
UNTIL *REINFORCEMENTS* GET HERE, WE'RE JUST GONNA SIT NICE AND STILL...
"... AND LISTEN TO WHAT THIS *FREAK'S* GOT TO SAY."
MY NAME IS *OLD HOB*. I'M A MUTANT.
WHAT'S A MUTANT? GOOD QUESTION.
WE'RE THE DIRTY LITTLE SECRET YOUR GOVERNMENT'S BEEN *KEEPIN'* FROM YOU— THE COPS AND THE EPF... YOUR SLICK NEW *MAYOR*, EVEN.
WE'RE THE SCARY THINGS YOU IMAGINE *HIDIN'* IN THE SHADOWS, KEEPIN' YOU *AWAKE* AT NIGHT, BLANKETS OVER YOUR FACES.
YOU FEAR *US* WITHOUT REALIZIN' YOU *HUMANS* ARE THE *REAL* MONSTERS.
STINKIN' CRAZY FLEA-BITER...
ACT
NOT
BUT NO MORE. WE'RE GONNA SHOW YOU *WHAT'S WHAT*. WE'RE DONE HIDIN', DONE BEIN' ABUSED, DONE PRETENDIN' WE DON'T EXIST. DONE NOT FIGHTIN' BACK.
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. AFTER ALL YOU SCUM HAVE PUT ME AND MY FRIENDS THROUGH, MY HEART USED TO TELL ME YOU SHOULD ALL *DIE*. BUT I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT THAT.
NO... DEATH'S TOO EASY. YOU NEED TO FEEL WHAT *WE* FEEL FIRST—THE PAIN AND TERROR.
BUT I CAN READ, AND ALL YOUR LITTLE SIGNS SAY YOU PREFER *ACTION* INSTEAD OF *WORDS*, SO I'LL KEEP THIS SHORT AND SWEET.
WE'RE NOT HERE TONIGHT TO ONLY CHANGE *HEARTS* AND *MINDS*.
WE'RE HERE TO CHANGE *EVERYTHING*.
STAND DOWN, MUTANT!

ONE WARNING'S ALL YOU GET.
SURRENDER OR BE DESTROYED.
PLEASE DON'T SURRENDER.
SLASH?
CLONES, HOB. THEY'VE CLONED HIM.
MONSTERS.
IT'S A BOMB!
FOOM!

OH, MY GOD.

WHAT...

...THE...

...HELL?

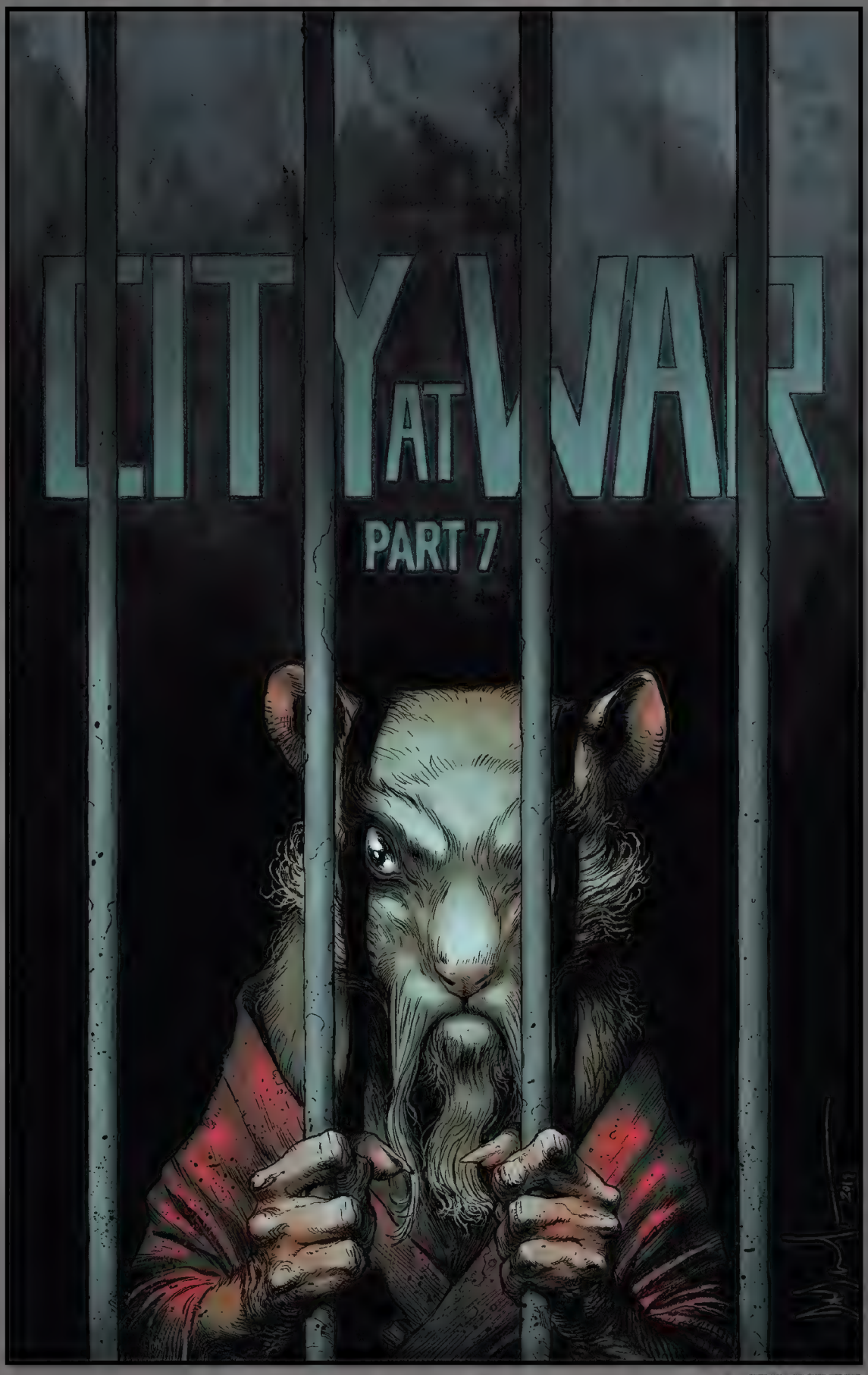
CREW

ACTION NOT WORDS

"IT IS ONLY A *NIGHTMARE.*"

NNNG...
WAKE UP...
...HUSBAND.
GYAH!
SHEN?
HELLO, YOSHI.
AM I—
NO. YOU LIVE STILL. THOUGH YOUR PAIN IS IMMENSE... WITHIN AND WITHOUT.
I AM TIRED, SHEN. SO... TIRED.
I KNOW, MY LOVE. IT IS A HEAVY BURDEN YOU HAVE BORNE FOR SO LONG.
YET YOU MUST FIND THE STRENGTH TO BEAR IT EVEN FARTHER. TO RISE UP AND ESCAPE THIS PRISON.
THE CHILDREN STILL NEED YOU.
OUR SONS?
ALL THE CHILDREN...
PLEASE... DO NOT LEAVE ME.
LEAVE? HARDLY.
I'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED.

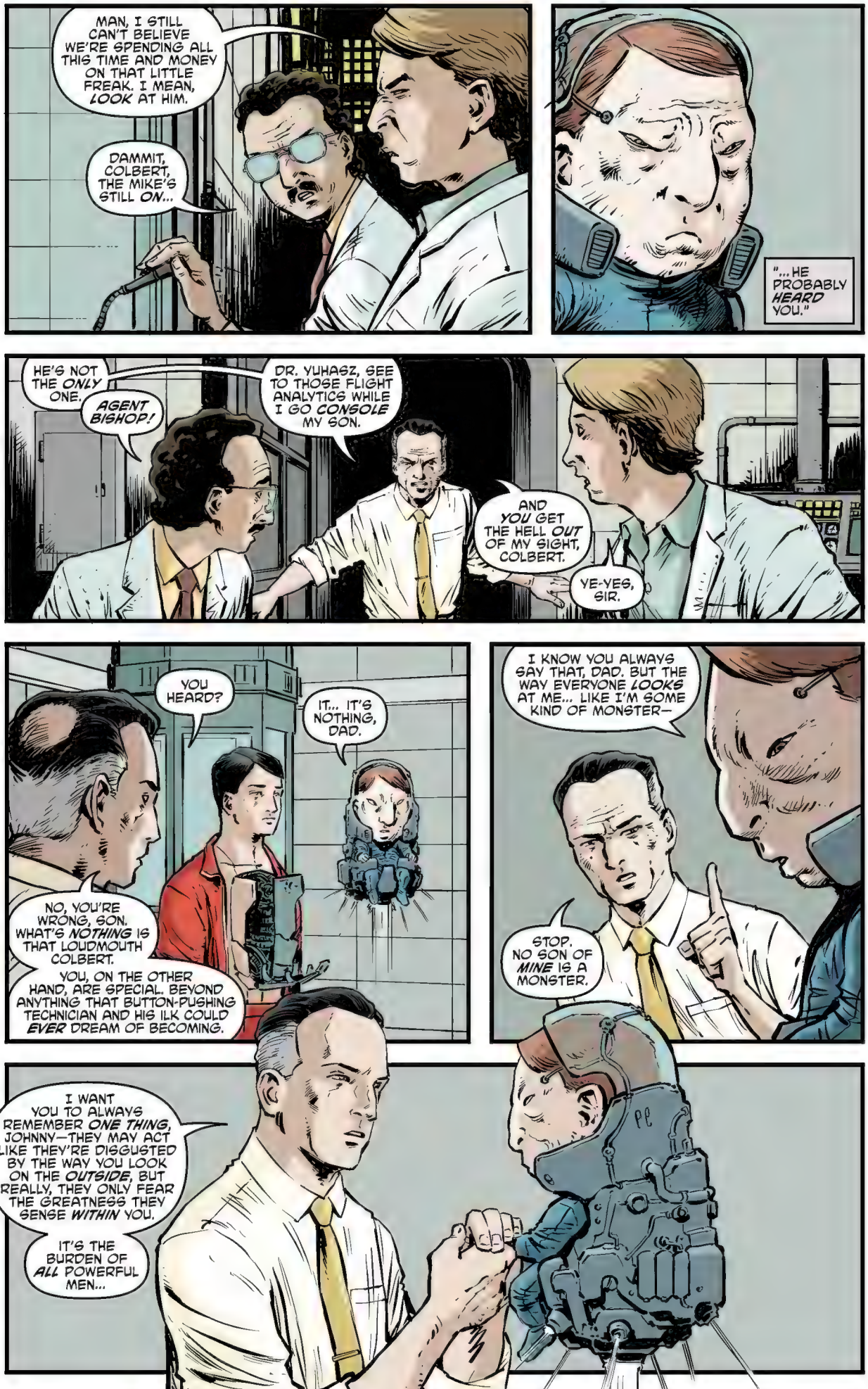
art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA

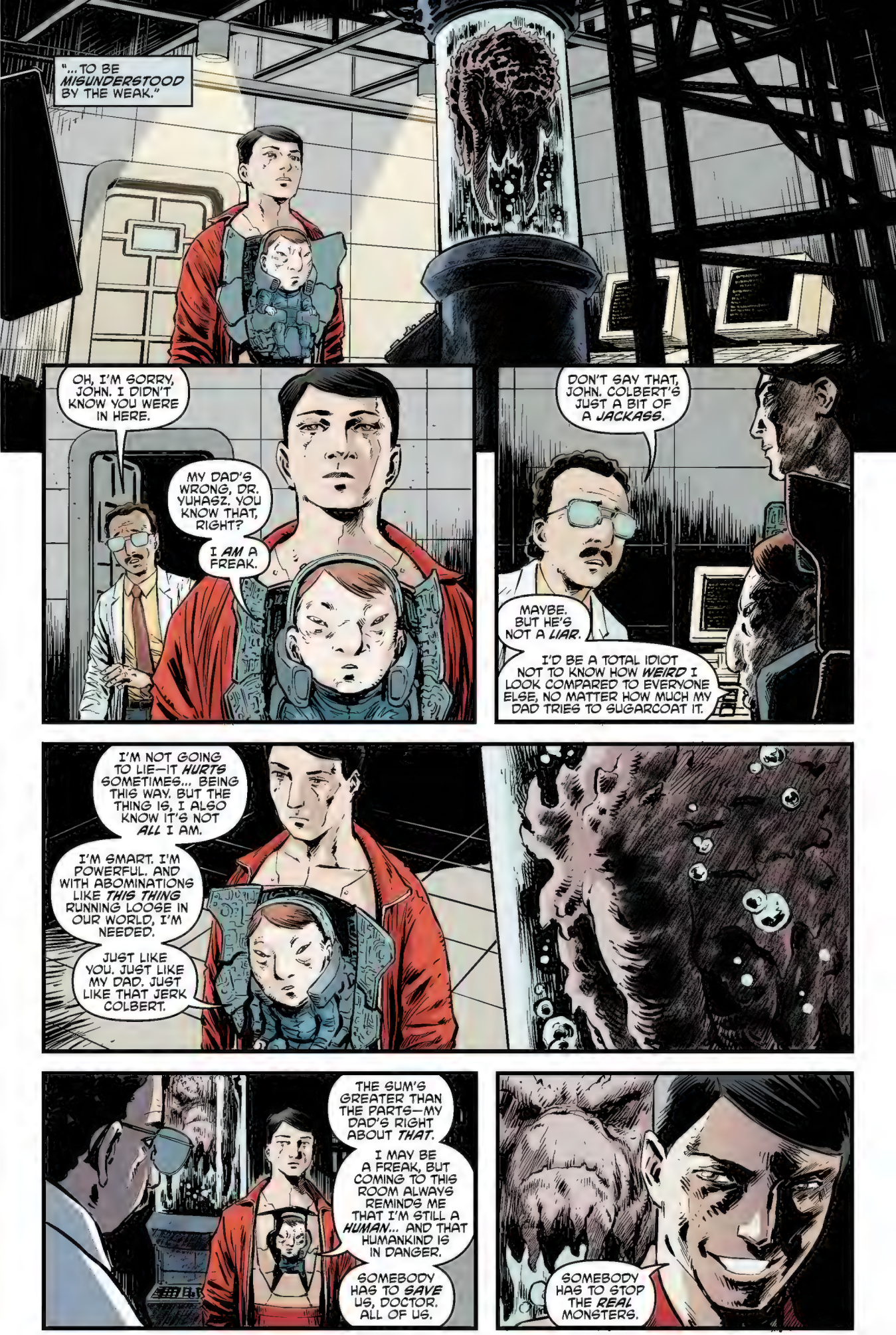


art by DAVE WACHTER

ISSUE #88

AREA 51. SOUTHERN NEVADA, USA. 1984.
"OKAY... IT APPEARS THE ENHANCED PHYSIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS ARE WORKING TO STANDARD—"
—GO AHEAD AND SECURE THE WEIGHTS, JOHN, AND WE'LL RUN A DIAGNOSTIC TEST ON YOUR EJECTION UPGRADES.
SURE, DOCTOR YUHASZ.
CLANG
READY.
STAND BY.
EJECTION IN 3... 2...
...1!
FLIGHT
HOW'S THAT?
EXCELLENT, JOHN. JUST GIVE US A FEW SECONDS SO WE CAN SET UP SOME FLIGHT ANALYTICS.


MAN, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SPENDING ALL THIS TIME AND MONEY ON THAT LITTLE FREAK. I MEAN, LOOK AT HIM.
DAMMIT, COLBERT, THE MIKE'S STILL ON...
"...HE PROBABLY HEARD YOU."
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.
AGENT BISHOP!
DR. YUHASZ, SEE TO THOSE FLIGHT ANALYTICS WHILE I GO CONSOLE MY SON.
AND YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF MY SIGHT, COLBERT.
YE-YES, SIR.
YOU HEARD?
IT... IT'S NOTHING, DAD.
NO, YOU'RE WRONG, SON. WHAT'S NOTHING IS THAT LOUDMOUTH COLBERT.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE SPECIAL. BEYOND ANYTHING THAT BUTTON-PUSHING TECHNICIAN AND HIS ILK COULD EVER DREAM OF BECOMING.
I KNOW YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT, DAD. BUT THE WAY EVERYONE LOOKS AT ME... LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF MONSTER—
STOP. NO SON OF MINE IS A MONSTER.
I WANT YOU TO ALWAYS REMEMBER ONE THING, JOHNNY—THEY MAY ACT LIKE THEY'RE DISGUSTED BY THE WAY YOU LOOK ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT REALLY, THEY ONLY FEAR THE GREATNESS THEY SENSE WITHIN YOU.
IT'S THE BURDEN OF ALL POWERFUL MEN...


"...TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE WEAK."
OH, I'M SORRY, JOHN. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN HERE.
MY DAD'S WRONG, DR. YUHASZ. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
I AM A FREAK.
DON'T SAY THAT, JOHN. COLBERT'S JUST A BIT OF A JACKASS.
MAYBE. BUT HE'S NOT A LIAR.
I'D BE A TOTAL IDIOT NOT TO KNOW HOW WEIRD I LOOK COMPARED TO EVERYONE ELSE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MY DAD TRIES TO SUGARCOAT IT.
I'M NOT GOING TO LIE—IT HURTS SOMETIMES... BEING THIS WAY. BUT THE THING IS, I ALSO KNOW IT'S NOT ALL I AM.
I'M SMART. I'M POWERFUL. AND WITH ABOMINATIONS LIKE THIS THING RUNNING LOOSE IN OUR WORLD, I'M NEEDED.
JUST LIKE YOU. JUST LIKE MY DAD. JUST LIKE THAT JERK COLBERT.
THE SUM'S GREATER THAN THE PARTS—MY DAD'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
I MAY BE A FREAK, BUT COMING TO THIS ROOM ALWAYS REMINDS ME THAT I'M STILL A HUMAN... AND THAT HUMANKIND IS IN DANGER.
SOMEBODY HAS TO SAVE US, DOCTOR. ALL OF US.
SOMEBODY HAS TO STOP THE REAL MONSTERS.

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.
"WELL, NOW THAT WE KNOW *WHY* WE'RE HERE..."
EPF
...SHALL WE GET *STARTED*, MR. JONES?
EPF
I TOLD YOU...
...THE NAME'S *HUN*.
IT *WORKED*, RAY. LOOK.
ALL I SEE IS *TROUBLE*. BISHOP, HUN, AND THOSE DAMNED SLASH CLONES.
YEAH. THAT.
SALLY, LISTEN UP. NEED YOU TO LAND THAT THING *ASAP*.
AND MAKE READY FOR PASSENGERS.
PASSENGERS?! WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO, HOB?
WHAT I *SHOULDA* DONE A LONG TIME AGO. NOW, YOU SAY YOU WANNA HELP MUTANTS, THEN GET *DOWN* HERE AND START HELPIN'.

WE'LL CLEAR YOU A LANDING ZONE.
ZLAP
ZZAP
ZZA
TAKE COVER!
EPF
OKAY, HERMAN. DO YOUR THING.
SHOOM
SHOOM
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAK
SHOOM
SHOOM
BA BOOM
POLICE
NYPD
BA BOOM
WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE, SIR!
BA BOOM
EPF
EPF
EPF
NOW THE FREAKIN' DUMPSTER'S TRYIN' TO KILL US!
HURRY UP, HOB, DAMMIT!

"THIS LZ'S GONNA GET HOT AGAIN REAL FAST!"
OH, MY GOD. THEY'RE ALL... MUTANTS.
AND IF THE EPF GETS A HOLD OF THEM...
FORGET THAT NOISE. WE GOTTA HELP GET 'EM OUTTA HERE.
DAMN, RAPH...
"...WHAT THE HELL'D YOU GET YOURSELF INTO?"
LISTEN UP, ALLA YOU! YOU WANNA LIVE, GET INSIDE THE SHIP!
WE CAN ONLY HOLD OFF THOSE GOONS TRYIN' TO KILL YOU FOR SO LONG!
HOB!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?!
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE? TRYIN' TO SAVE A BUNCH OF MUTANTS FROM THE EPF.
YEAH, WELL, I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, TURTLE...
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED, DAMMIT!
...THIS AIN'T JUST ABOUT YOU.
WHERE... WHERE'S MY HUSBAND?
I'M SURE HE'S FINE, MA'AM. BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED TO GET ON THE SHIP.
RAPH?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ALOPEX. I—

RAHH!
WAIT! RAPH!
GUESS HE DON'T LIKE BEIN' ON THE WINNIN' SIDE AFTER ALL.
SHUT UP, HOB.
THAT'S ALL THAT'LL FIT. THERE'S NO MORE ROOM.
YO! SHUT THE DOOR!
LIKE YESTERDAY, SALLY! THE FREAKSOME FOURSOME'S COMIN'!
DAD?
THE TRASHCAN STOPPED FIRIN'.
YES...
"... AND NOW IT APPEARS THEY'RE ALL RUNNING."
SALLY! GET THAT TUB IN THE SKY! NOW!
ON IT! AND WHEN WE GET BACK HOME...

...YOU AND ME ARE GONNA HAVE A LONG TALK, HOB.
NEW FRIENDS! NEW FRIENDS!
SIT DOWN AND STRAP IN, PETE—
"—'CAUSE WE'RE OUTTA HERE."
WE NEED TO GET THE HELL GONE, TOO.
WHERE'S RAPH?
TOOK OFF. AND NO SIGN OF APRIL.
I CAN'T FREAKIN' BELIEVE IT.
GUN IT, RAY!
THUMP
BWOOM
WOW. AND HERE I THOUGHT POLITICS WERE BORING...
EPF
...WHAT A MESS.
NO—THIS IS AN UNMITIGATED DISASTER, DETECTIVE LEWIS.
COORDINATE AN IMMEDIATE RECOVERY EFFORT—FIND THE STRAGGLERS THAT DIDN'T ESCAPE ON THAT SHIP AND BRING THEM TO ME. DISCRETION IS NO LONGER A CONCERN.
THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT OUR LITTLE SECRET NOW.
"THANK YOU FOR COMING..."

"...YOUR *PROMPT RESPONSE* TO MY INVITATION IS DULY NOTED."

FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT KNOW, I AM *OROKU KARAI*—SOLE DESCENDANT OF OROKU SAKI... *THE SHREDDER*.

I HAVE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE TODAY TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR DAYS OF BOWING TO THE RAT CALLED SPLINTER ARE AT AN *END*. HE HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND HIS PATHETIC REIGN CRUSHED.

THE FOOT CLAN NOW BELONGS TO *ME*—THROUGH THE BLOOD THAT FLOWS IN MY VEINS, AS WELL AS THE BLOOD SHED IN BATTLE TO RECLAIM MY *RIGHTFUL* THRONE.

MANY OF US HAVE GATHERED IN THIS SAME BUILDING BEFORE. AT THAT TIME, THE SHREDDER DECLARED *ABSOLUTE CONTROL* OF THIS GREAT METROPOLIS BY THE FOOT CLAN.*

AND HE DEMANDED ABSOLUTE FEALTY FROM *ALL* OF NEW YORK CITY'S CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. NO SHARED POWER, NO INDEPENDENCE, NO COMPROMISE.

BUT THAT WAS ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER FOOT CLAN... AND ANOTHER *MASTER*.

*See TMNT #27 – B.C.

TONIGHT, *EVERYTHING* CHANGES.

FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD, YOU WILL EACH MAINTAIN *COMPLETE OWNERSHIP* OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES. *ALL* ACTIONS THEREIN, AND ANY ASSOCIATED PROFITS OR LOSSES, WILL BE YOURS AND YOURS ALONE.

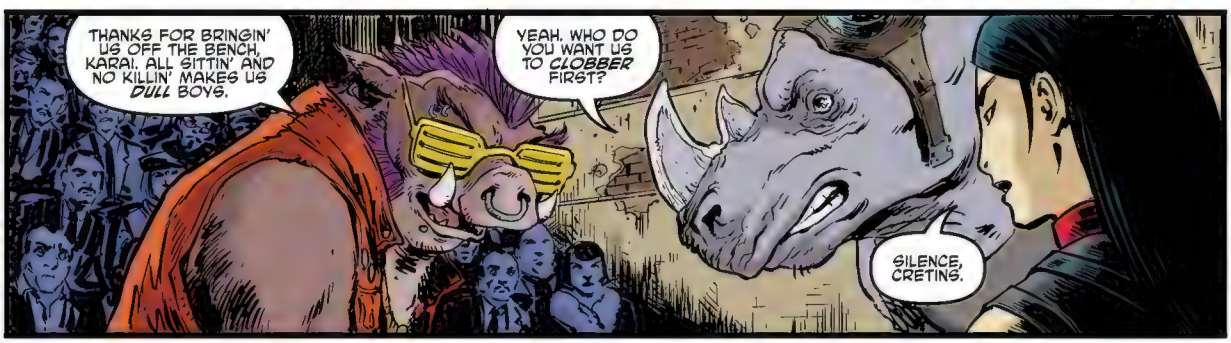
FURTHERMORE, YOU WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO PAY *TRIBUTE* TO THE FOOT CLAN. NOR WILL YOU BE SUBJECT TO OUR ORDERS SHOULD YOU AGREE TO SOLELY OPERATE *WITHIN* YOUR PRESCRIBED BOUNDARIES.

WE WILL SIMPLY ACT AS *OVERSEERS* OF THIS NEW COOPERATIVE COALITION—PEACEKEEPERS, IF YOU WILL. ENSURING *NOBODY* STEPS OUT OF LINE.

AND SHOULD THAT HAPPEN...

...THE FOOT CLAN WILL STEP IN QUICKLY TO *CORRECT* YOUR COURSE.

WHAT UP, NYC!
LONG TIME NO STOMP!
YEAH! ROCK AND THE BOPSTER ARE BACK!
HEH. ROCK BOPSTER. GET IT?


THANKS FOR BRINGIN' US OFF THE BENCH, KARAI. ALL SITTIN' AND NO KILLIN' MAKES US DULL BOYS.
YEAH. WHO DO YOU WANT US TO CLOBBER FIRST?
SILENCE, CRETINS.

SILENT BUT DEADLY. WE CAN DO THAT, HUH, B?
YOU KIDDIN'? IT'S PRACTICALLY YOUR SUPER POWER, ROCK.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

RAT KING?!
AH, YOU RECOGNIZE ME. EXCELLENT. WHEN LAST WE MET, I RECALL ERASING YOUR RECALL.*
BUT YES—IT IS I. AT YOUR SERVICE.
MY... ERF... SERVICE?
I FIND THAT UNLIKELY.
AND I FIND YOUR LACK OF FAITH DISAPPOINTING.
WE HAVE THE SAME TROUBLES CONCERNING US, AFTER ALL.
*See TMNT #36 - B.C.
TROUBLES?
OH, YES.
THE CONTINUED WELL-BEING OF OUR PROGENY.
AND SPEAKING OF BELOVED OFFSPRING, WHY NOT REACH OUT TO YOURS FOR HELP IN ESCAPING THIS MESS? I SEEM TO REMEMBER YOUR ELDEST SON BEING BOTH ANNOYINGLY DUTIFUL AND PRONE TO INANE HEROICS.
I'VE NO DOUBTS A LITTLE JAUNT INTO THE ASTRAL PLANE WOULD BRING HIM SCURRYING HERE IN A JIFFY, SWORDS SLASHING.
SQUEEE!

NO. THIS MESS, AS YOU CALL IT, IS OF MY *OWN* MAKING, AND THEREFORE *MINE* TO CLEAN UP.
I WILL NOT HAVE MY SON BE A PARTY TO THE *DANGER* MY CAPTIVITY ENTAILS.
AH, BUT THAT CAN'T REALLY BE HELPED, *CAN* IT? YOU'VE MADE THEM *ALL* UNWILLING PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR FALL FROM GRACE FROM THE VERY START.
THE TRUSTED SHEPHERD DRAGGING HIS LOYAL LAMBS *DOWN* TO THE SLAUGHTER.
THERE WILL BE *NO* SLAUGHTER.
ENOUGH INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED ON *MY BEHALF* ALREADY.
I WILL NOT ALLOW *ANY MORE* CHILDREN TO SUFFER.
A NOBLE GESTURE. AND YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT—*NO CHILD* SHOULD BE VICTIM TO THE WICKED GAMES THEIR ELDERS CHOOSE TO PLAY.
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW *ALL* TOO WELL.
BUT PROTECTING THE SO-CALLED INNOCENT IS MUCH EASIER *SAID* THAN DONE, I'M AFRAID. ESPECIALLY NOW.
THERE'S A *DRAGON* COMING.
AND THAT DRAGON IS *HUNGRY*.
A DRAGON? YOUR *SIRE*, I ASSUME.
YOU SPEAK OF THE *DANGERS* OF TERRIBLE GAMES, RAT KING, AND LAMENT THE *FATE* OF THEIR INNOCENT VICTIMS.
AND YET YOU *REVEL* IN THE DESTRUCTIVE CONTEST YOUR FAMILY HAS ENGAGED IN FOR MILLENNIA, USING ALL OTHER PEOPLE AS *EXPENDABLE* PAWNS.
WELL... NOT *ONLY* PEOPLE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, HOWEVER—WHO AM I TO LIE? I DO SO ENJOY THE GAME MY FAMILY PLAYS.
BUT MY YOUNGEST SISTER HAS GONE AND CHANGED THE RULES MORE THAN A LITTLE BIT RECENTLY, AND RISKS TURNING THE ENTIRE THING ON ITS HEAD SHOULD SHE GET HER WAY.
I WOULD THINK THAT KITSUNE'S OBJECTIVE IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF CHAOS YOU CELEBRATE, RAT KING.
NORMALLY, YES. BUT CRAZY, I MAY BE—STUPID, I'M NOT.
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO, YOU KNOW—ESCAPE. YOU'RE NEEDED. YOUR ROLE IN THE GAME IS NOT YET COMPLETE.
BUT IT WON'T BE EASY.
BUT IT NEED NOT BE SO HARD.
THE WAY OUT IS DENSE AND RIGID. STONE THICK, TO BE EXACT. BUT I CAN HELP.
I RULE THE THIN PLACES... THE MYSTERIOUS BRIDGE THAT LIES BETWEEN ALL THINGS.
BOW TO ME—BECOME MY LOYAL KNIGHT—AND YOUR JOURNEY TO FREEDOM WILL BE LIKE WALKING THROUGH AIR.
NO, RAT KING. I HAVE SUCCUMBED TO THE FALSE REFUGE OF DARKNESS FOR FAR TOO LONG. MY ALLEGIANCE BELONGS SOLELY TO MY FAMILY NOW.
AS I SAID, THIS IS MY MESS TO CLEAN, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT MAY BE.
THERE WILL BE TREMENDOUS PAIN.
THERE ALWAYS IS.
HI-YAH!

"THIS IS ILLOGICAL.
"THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS ARE ACCURATE.
"THE CALCULATIONS ALL LINE UP."
THE SOLUTION WOULD SEEM TO BE CLEARLY IN FRONT OF ME.
WHAT AM I MISSING?

WHAT ARE YOU KEEPING FROM ME?!
HEY, DON'T START ACCUSING US OF HOLDING BACK.
WE'VE BEEN WORKING NON-STOP EVER SINCE YOU GOT THE BLASTED IDEA IN THAT TIN CAN HEAD OF YOURS.
YES. BUT IT WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME YOUR KIND TRIED TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME.
NOBODY'S TRICKING YOU, METALHEAD. YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A WORKING TELEPORTER NOW, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED—YOU SAID YOURSELF THE MATH IS RIGHT.
BUT... THERE IS SOMETHING MISSING. AN ABERRANT X-FACTOR I CANNOT IDENTIFY.
I KNOW THE CONVEYANCE OF SENTIENT BEINGS IS ACHIEVABLE—THE MEMORIES I MAINTAIN SUBSTANTIATE THAT. BUT THE CALCULATIONS DO NOT PROVE HOW IT IS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, LOGIC DICTATES IT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE.
GREAT. METALHEAD'S BUILDING A TELEPORTER—THAT'S ALL WE NEED.
MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD THING.
HOW?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. JUST DO YOUR BEST TO KEEP OUR FRIENDS SAFE—
"—I'LL DEAL WITH METALHEAD."
I WILL RUN THE TEST SCENARIO AGAIN. I WILL IDENTIFY THE ANOMALY.
HOW? NOTHING'S CHANGED. YOUR TESTING IS JUST STUBBORN REDUNDANCY AT THIS POINT.
DEFINITION OF INSANITY FOR 500, ALEX.
I AM GROWING IMPATIENT WITH YOUR CONSTANT SARCASM, DR. LILJA.
PERHAPS IT IS TIME I SWAP OUT SIMULATION TESTING WITH A LIVE SUBJECT.
HAROLD?
WAIT, I—
METALHEAD!

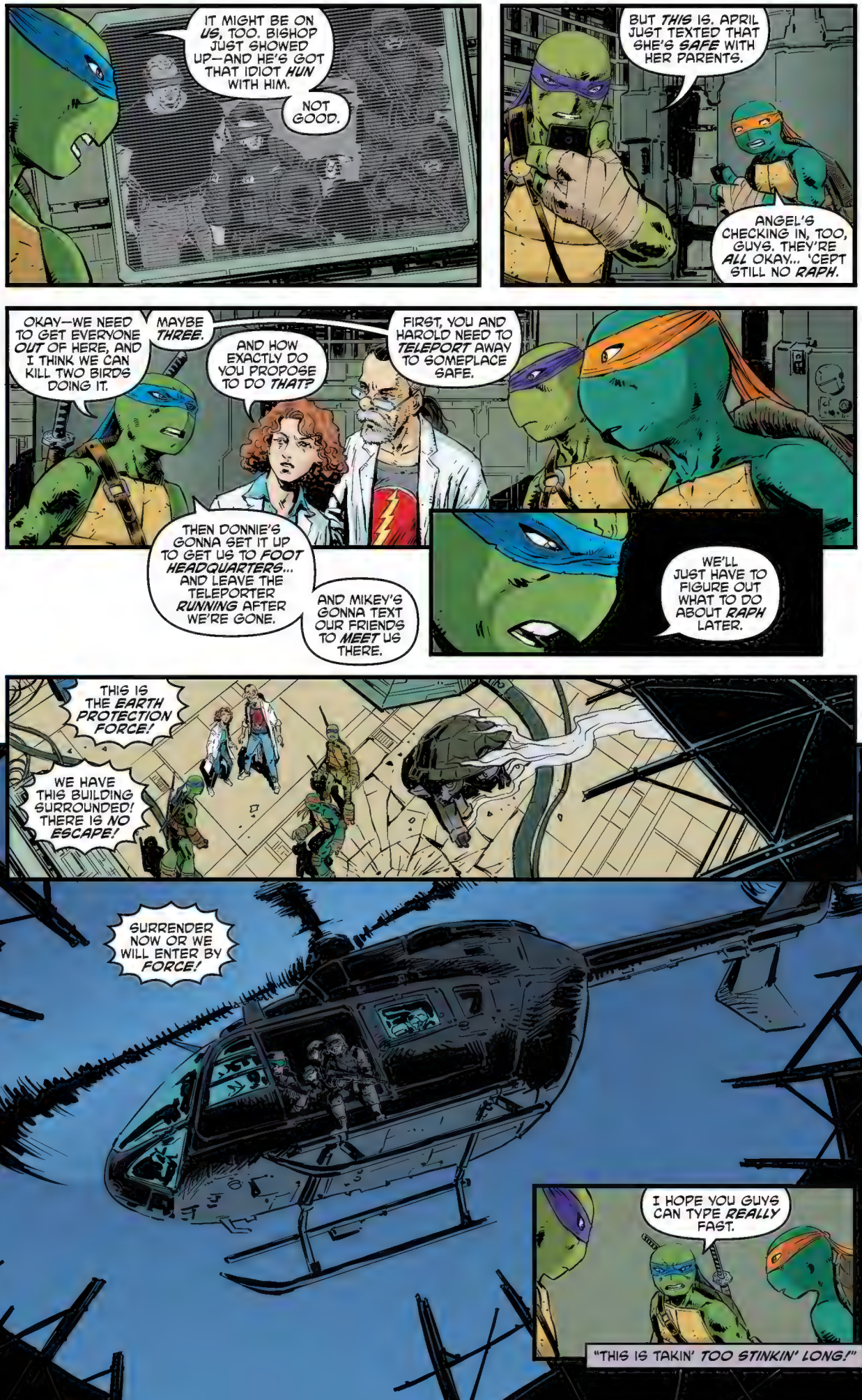
DONATELLO!
WE NEED TO *TALK.*
NO TALKING!
UNF!
YOU ARE DONE **SABOTAGING** MY PLANS.
OW.
LOOK—THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A *FIGHT.* WE CAN—
I SAID...
...NO TALKING!
FWAP
WHAT THE HECK'S DONNIE *THINKING?* IS HE NUTS?
MEH. NOW WE KNOW WHERE *METALHEAD* GETS IT FROM.
HAROLD!
IT'S OKAY. DONNIE *KNOWS* WHAT HE'S DOING—

"—I HOPE."
GOOD-BYE, DONATELLO. I WILL LEAVE YOUR **CORPSE** TO THE EPF AS AGREED.
WAIT... *NNF*... YOU KILL ME AND... *GNH*... YOU WON'T KNOW ***TRUTH***... *GUH*... ABOUT TELEPORTER.
WHICH TRUTH?
IT'S NOT... *UFF*... BROKEN.
YOU... ARE.
EXPLAIN.
WHUMP
FINE. JUST GIVE ME A SEC TO READJUST MY *JAWBONE*.
ALWAYS WITH THE CHOKING AND THE SMASHING. *SHEESH*.
"WE HAVE THEM *CONTAINED*—"

—THEY'RE ALL INSIDE. THE BUILDING'S EXTERIOR IS *SECURE* AND WE ARE STACKED AND READY TO BREACH.
EPF
NO. KEEP YOUR STRIKE TEAM *IN PLACE*, LIEUTENANT.
I AM EN ROUTE AND WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.
AFTER TONIGHT'S EARLIER UNFORTUNATE EVENTS, I WANT *VERY MUCH* TO BE PART OF THIS TAKEDOWN.
YOU AIN'T THE *ONLY* ONE.
STANDING BY.
HOW IS IT THAT I AM... **BROKEN?**
FIRST OF ALL, WHAT *EXACTLY* ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH—BESIDES BULLYING MY FRIENDS AND PULVERIZING ME?
MY **PRIMARY OBJECTIVE** IS THE ACQUISITION OF HIGHER KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCED TECHNICAL RESOURCES.
TO DO SO I MUST **LEAVE** THIS PLANET. THE SPACECRAFT IN **AREA 51** WOULD SUFFICE... OR MORE DIRECTLY, THIS TELEPORTER.
HM. GOOD PLAN, ACTUALLY. EXACTLY WHAT *I* WOULD'VE DONE IN YOUR SHOES.
WARNING
SECURITY BREACH
BUT SOMETHING'S *WRONG*, RIGHT? THE NUMBERS YOU'VE RUN DON'T MATCH UP WITH WHAT YOUR MEMORIES—*MY* MEMORIES ARE TELLING YOU.
EVERY SCENARIO I HAVE RUN HAS THE **SAME** OUTCOME—SENTIENT ENTITIES SHOULD **NOT** BE ABLE TO SURVIVE TELEPORTATION.
PHYSICALLY, YES, BUT THERE IS A NEUROBIOLOGICAL INCONGRUITY THAT I HAVE **YET** TO ACCOUNT FOR.
SO MUCH FOR STEALTH.
HURRY, DONNIE! WE'VE GOT *COMPANY*.

AND YOU WON'T. THIS MACHINE'S NO DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHERS... I'VE GOT TOTAL CONFIDENCE THAT HAROLD AND LIBBY BUILT IT 100% RIGHT.
THEY GAVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEEDED FOR A FUNCTIONING TELEPORTER—EXCEPT THE ONE THING THEY COULDN'T GIVE YOU.
FAITH.
FAITH IS AN IRRATIONAL CONCEPT. I WILL WASTE NO MORE TIME WITH THIS DISCUSSION.
LISTEN TO ME—I USED TO BE A SLAVE TO THE DATA, TOO... STUCK IN PLACE, JUST LIKE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW. UNTIL PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT SHOWED ME SOMETHING DIFFERENT.*
HE HELPED ME REALIZE THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS SCIENCE CAN'T EXPLAIN—SOME NUMBERS THAT JUST CAN'T BE CRUNCHED.
IRRATIONAL!
*See TMNT #20 -- B.C.
FZAKK
KLANG
DAMMIT, DON! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
THE LOOP OF SCIENCE IS MADE UP OF DATA AND FAITH, BUT YOU CAN'T SEE PAST THE DATA, METALHEAD. PAST YOUR CALCULATIONS.
AND YOU NEVER WILL.
I CAN STEP THROUGH THIS TELEPORTER AND SURVIVE. THE INDEFINABLE NUMERIC SCRAMBLE THAT MAKES ME WHO I AM—THE SOUL EQUATION YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT—WILL KEEP ME ALIVE.
EVEN WHEN I WAS INSIDE YOUR BODY, IT WAS STILL ME. STILL MY ESSENCE.
FWAK
GUH!
IRRECONCILABLE!
BUT YOU... YOU'RE SEEKING PURE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE SO YOU CAN BE MORE LIKE ME—LIKE US—AND INSTEAD, YOU'RE BECOMING MORE LIKE THE SOULLESS MACHINE YOU REALLY ARE.
YOU EVEN SOUND DIFFERENT... SO COLD AND ROBOTIC.
YOU'RE AFRAID OF DYING WHEN YOU'RE NOT EVEN REALLY ALIVE.

AND YOU... YOU WOULD TRUST **YOUR LIFE** TO THE UNPROVEN BELIEF YOUR FRIEND DID NOT DELIBERATELY SABOTAGE THIS MACHINE TO STOP ME?
TO FAITH?
YES. I WOULD. BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED THAT *EMPIRICAL PROOF* ISN'T ALWAYS FOUND IN FLOWCHARTS AND SPREADSHEETS.
SOMETIMES IT'S STANDING RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF YOU.
FOOM
FOOM
OR RIGHT *BEHIND* YOU!
WHA—
CLK
KZZZ


IT MIGHT BE ON *US*, TOO. BISHOP JUST SHOWED UP—AND HE'S GOT THAT IDIOT *HUN* WITH HIM.
NOT GOOD.
BUT *THIS* IS. APRIL JUST TEXTED THAT SHE'S *SAFE* WITH HER PARENTS.
ANGEL'S CHECKING IN, TOO, GUYS. THEY'RE *ALL* OKAY... 'CEPT STILL NO *RAPH*.
OKAY—WE NEED TO GET EVERYONE *OUT* OF HERE, AND I THINK WE CAN KILL TWO BIRDS DOING IT.
MAYBE *THREE*.
AND HOW EXACTLY DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO *THAT*?
FIRST, YOU AND HAROLD NEED TO *TELEPORT* AWAY TO SOMEPLACE SAFE.
THEN DONNIE'S GONNA SET IT UP TO GET US TO *FOOT HEADQUARTERS*... AND LEAVE THE TELEPORTER *RUNNING* AFTER WE'RE GONE.
AND MIKEY'S GONNA TEXT OUR FRIENDS TO *MEET* US THERE.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT *RAPH* LATER.
THIS IS THE *EARTH PROTECTION FORCE!*
WE HAVE THIS BUILDING SURROUNDED! THERE IS *NO ESCAPE!*
SURRENDER NOW OR WE WILL ENTER BY *FORCE!*
I HOPE YOU GUYS CAN TYPE *REALLY* FAST.
"THIS IS TAKIN' *TOO STINKIN' LONG!*"

GIVE THESE SNEAKY MUTANTS AN INCH...
...AND THEY'LL TAKE A *WHOLE DAMN MILE* EVERY TIME.
NO, MR. JONES, WAIT UNTIL—

KADOOM

GO! GO! GO!
CLUMSY FOOL—AS SUBTLE AS A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.
EPF
EPF

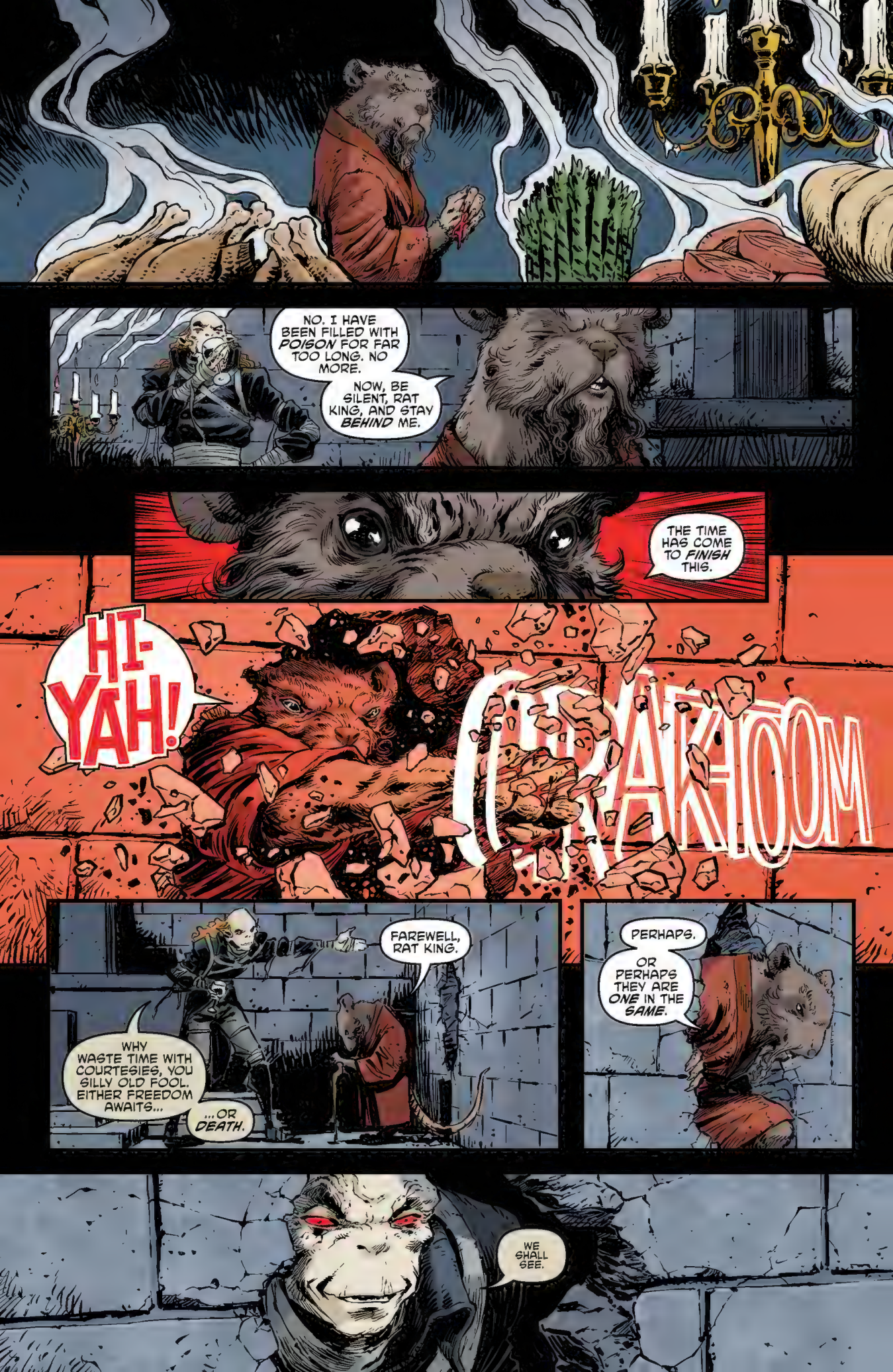
THEY'RE NOT HERE, AGENT BISHOP.
NOBODY?
ONLY METALHEAD, SIR, AND IT'S BEEN *DISABLED*. THE MUTANTS AND THE SCIENTISTS ARE GONE.
EPF
WHAT'D I *TELL* YA?
EVERY SINGLE TIME!

BE THAT AS IT MAY, I'M FAIRLY CONFIDENT I KNOW *HOW* THEY MADE THEIR EXIT IN THIS INSTANCE.
AND I'LL ALSO HAZARD A GUESS, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OPERATOR ON THIS END TO DELETE THEM, THEIR CURRENT COORDINATES REMAIN *LOCKED IN*.
EPF

WHICH MEANS WHAT?
WHICH MEANS, MR. JONES, *WHEREVER* THEY'VE GOTTEN OFF TO...

"...WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND THEM."
HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN...
...IS IT NOT, OROKU KARAI?
KITSUNE. I WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD BE BEFORE YOU MADE YOURSELF PRESENT.
AH, BUT I AM ALWAYS PRESENT, CHILD, IF NOT ALWAYS EASILY SEEN.
AND WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BE SEEN NOW, GRANDMOTHER?
I'VE COME TO COMMEND YOU. YOUR CALCULATED RISE TO POWER HAS BEEN AN IMPRESSIVE FEAT TO WITNESS.
AND TO THANK YOU.
THANK ME?
YES. IF NOT FOR YOUR RECENT ACTIONS IN JAPAN AND HERE, THE STEPS I TAKE NEXT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN FAR MORE DIFFICULT THAN I NOW ANTICIPATE THEY WILL BE.
STEPS? WHAT...
...STEPS?
THE GAME IS STILL AFOOT, YOUNG MASTER. AND WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY...
KARA!?
YOU!

CRAK.
I'M IMPRESSED. YOU'RE ACTUALLY MAKING *PROGRESS*.
CRAK.
YOU MAY BREAK THROUGH, YET.
IF ONLY YOU'D SHOWN THIS MUCH SPUNK AGAINST *KARAI* AND HER MINIONS.
YES, WELL, THE WALL DOES NOT *FIGHT BACK*.
ARE YOU *SURE* ABOUT THAT?
BUT ALL THIS HARD WORK, YOU MUST BE *FAMISHED*. AND YOU'VE SUCH A LONG WAY TO GO.
REST FOR A MOMENT. CATCH YOUR BREATH. RESTORE YOUR ENERGY.
DRINK.
FEAST!


NO. I HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH *POISON* FOR FAR TOO LONG. NO MORE.
NOW, BE SILENT, RAT KING, AND STAY *BEHIND* ME.
THE TIME HAS COME TO *FINISH* THIS.
HI-YAH!
KAKOOM
FAREWELL, RAT KING.
WHY WASTE TIME WITH COURTESIES, YOU SILLY OLD FOOL. EITHER FREEDOM AWAITS...
...OR *DEATH*.
PERHAPS.
OR PERHAPS THEY ARE *ONE* IN THE *SAME*.
WE SHALL SEE.

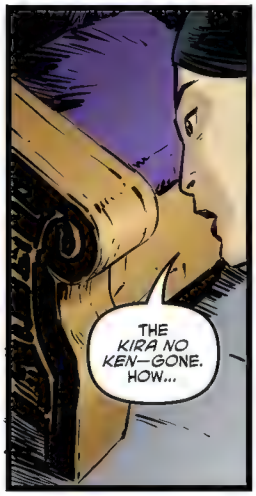
SO, THE MUTANT COWARDS *RETURN*.
HAVE YOU COME TO SURRENDER OR TO DIE?
NEITHER. WE'RE *STILL* RUNNING.
FOOM

THE EARTH PROTECTION FORCE IS RIGHT BEHIND US, KARAI. IT'S NOT GONNA BE LONG BEFORE THEY COME *STORMING* THROUGH THAT PORTAL. WE'RE JUST TRYING TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY ATTACK.
THE EPF WILL NOT ATTACK THE FOOT CLAN. THERE IS A *TRUCE* BETWEEN US.
YEAH—ONE THAT *MASTER SPLINTER* BROKERED, NOT YOU. I'M PRETTY SURE ALL BETS ARE *OFF* NOW.

YOU REALLY NEED TO CUT THIS *SHORT*, LEO.
YEAH, BRO— BISHOP'S COMING!

LISTEN, KARAI—YOU'RE RIGHT. THE EPF'S HONORED THE TRUCE SO FAR, BUT THAT'S OVER NOW. THEY'RE LOADED FOR BEAR AND OUT FOR MUTANT BLOOD, AND IT'S NO SECRET YOU'VE GOT SOME ON *YOUR* SIDE.
BISHOP'S NOT GONNA *STOP* THIS TIME.
AND YOU THINK BY BRINGING HIM HERE YOU CAN *STEAL* MY VICTORY AND *RESTORE* SPLINTER TO POWER?
NO. WE'RE JUST HERE TO GET HIM AND THE ORPHANS OUTTA THE LINE OF FIRE.
AND IF YOU'RE *SMART*, YOU'LL GATHER YOUR FORCES AND ESCAPE, TOO— BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. YOUR FATHER AND THOSE CHILDREN... THIS *CITY* BELONGS TO THE FOOT CLAN NOW, AND I WILL ALLOW *NOTHING* TO STAND IN OUR WAY.
I WILL—


THE *KIRA NO KEN*—GONE. HOW...

KITSUNE!

THERE THEY ARE!
FIRE!
YEP. TOO LATE.
FOOM
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
SCHHK
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
MOVE! MOVE!
STATUS REPORT, LIEUTENANT?
THE MUTANTS ARE *HERE*, SIR. CONFIRMED.
GOOD. WE'LL PRESS OUR ATTACK WHEN THE *REST* OF THE TROOPS COME THOUGH.
EPF
EPF
CRAP. WHERE'D THEY GET *MORE* SLASHES?
CLONES. GOTTA BE.
UH, GUYS...
I'M THROUGH *RECEIVING* SURPRISES TONIGHT—
—TIME TO BEGIN *DELIVERING* MY OWN.
GREAT.
FORGET HER— THE KIDS AND FATHER ARE THE PRIORITY.
YOU TWO GO. I'LL MAKE SURE I GET YOU A *HEAD START*.
BUT—

JUST GO!
RAHH!
STOP THAT MUTANT!
I KNOW THAT ONE.
AND I HATE HIM!
YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THAT REGARD, MR. JONES.
"IS LEO OUTTA HIS MIND?!"

HE CAN'T BEAT THEM ALL BY HIMSELF!
HE'S NOT TRYING TO WIN, MIKE—JUST DISTRACT.
AND HE'S NOT ALONE...
"...LOOK!"
YO, ROCK, WHEN KARAI SAID SHE WANTED US TO SQUASH SOME TURTLES, I WASN'T EXPECTIN' THE SUPER-SIZED KIND.
ME NEITHER, B. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU GO SUPER-SIZED, RIGHT?
YEAH.
FREE REFILLS!
"FREE REFILLS?"
WHAT'S THAT EVEN MEAN?
IT MEANS WE NEED TO GET MOVING.
COME ON, MIKE. LEO GAVE US ALL A JOB TO DO—

"—TIME WE GET BUSY DOING THEM."
WHAT'S WRONG, TURTLE? DON'T WANNA HAIRCUT?
TURTLES? MORE LIKE COPYCATS!
THEY'RE DOIN' EVERYTHING THESE GEEKS ARE DOIN'.
EPF
EPF
WE'RE WASTING OUR RESOURCES FIGHTING LIKE THIS, MR. JONES.
REPRIORITIZATION IS IN ORDER.
"SWITCH TO AUTO-PILOT."
SIC 'IM, BOY.
GRAAH!
WHOA! HOLY HALITOSIS!
UFF!
'LEAST YOURS AIN'T TRYIN' TO KISS YOU, ROCK!
YO, BISHOP! MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE SOME FOR ME!
NO PROMISES, MR. JONES.
EPF
"THIS IS IT..."

...THE ROOM WHERE THE ORPHANS WERE STAYING.
YOU THINK THEY'LL STILL BE IN THERE?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, DUDE. ON THREE.
ONE... TWO...
...THREE!
YAHHH!
UHH... MIKE?
GET 'EM!
WHAT THE—?
TOMMY? TRISH?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU KIDS DOING?
WE—WE'RE SORRY, MIKEY. WE HAD TO OR... OR THEY SAID THEY WERE GONNA HURT US.
WHO?
THEM.
THE BAD GUYS.
"IT'S JUST US NOW..."

...YOU AND I.
DONE HAVING OTHERS DO YOUR DIRTY WORK FOR YOU, BISHOP?
YES. I AM.
GOOD.
SO AM I.
"STAND ASIDE..."

...I WOULD HAVE A WORD WITH THE RAT.
HAI, MASTER!
YOUR SONS HAVE ARRIVED, SPLINTER. THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN FREE YOU.
BUT THEY'VE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN EXPEDITING YOUR DEMISE.
COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS YOU HIDE WITHIN, COWARD, AND MEET YOUR...
...FATE.
NO.
MASTER, WE DID NOT KNOW. WE HEARD NOTH—
NO!
SCHIIP
"YOUR BLOOD WILL PAINT THESE WALLS—"

—AND THEN THESE USELESS BRATS WILL *FILL* MY STOMACH.

IGNORE HER, KIDS. WE'RE GONNA GET YOU *OUTTA* HERE.

HURRY! OVER *HERE*, TOMMY!

NO. THEY *WON'T* BE LEAVING, MICHELANGELO— REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY BECOME KOVA'S MEAL OR NOT.

WHOOSH

THIS IS *KARAI'S* REIGN NOW.

SMAK

GNH!

AND WE WON'T LET ANYONE OR ANYTHING *STAND* IN HER WAY.

C'MON, MIKEY... GET UP. *PLEASE!*

YOUR TURN.

SKREE!

THUP

HOW—

YO, WHAT'S UP, GUYS?

WE GOT YOUR *TEXT*.

"*CLEVER MOVE*, I MUST ADMIT—"

—DRAWING *MY FORCES* TO THIS COMPOUND.

FWAP

INTO THE HEART OF *UNEXPECTED COMBAT.*

FWIP

EPF

THOUGH *INEVITABLE.*

WHUD

GFF!

I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE NINJA PESTS EVENTUALLY. AND THEIR *MUTANT PETS.*

NOW I CAN ELIMINATE *TWO* NUISANCES WITH *ONE* STONE.

FUNNY.

EPF

FWIP

'CAUSE I SAID SOMETHING *JUST LIKE THAT* NOT TOO LONG AGO.

"YOU *SEEIN'* THIS?"

WHONG

JUNIPER AIN'T EVEN PUTTIN' A *DENT* IN THIS SUPERSIZE STUPID'S SHELL!

WHO-BAM

DANG. ONLY OTHER PERSON THAT EVER CLOCKED ME THAT HARD WAS *YOU,* B.

YEAH. SAME HERE, ROCK.

THESE GUYS KINDA *RULE.*

"EVERYONE'S HAVIN' *FUN* BUT ME—"

AND ROBERTA'S *OUT* FOR THE COUNT! POOR BABY!

SMSH!

—TIME TO *CHANGE* THAT.

BISHOP'S GONNA *SHARE* THAT TURTLE TWERP WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR N—

AAGH!

SHNK

WHERE YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOIN'...

...DAD?

"AND NOW WE *BEGIN.*"

"ALL THE PIECES ARE IN PLACE AT *LAST*—
"—SET TO BE JOINED TOGETHER IN A *SPECTACULAR COLLISION.*
"OF OLD AND NEW.
"PAST AND PRESENT.

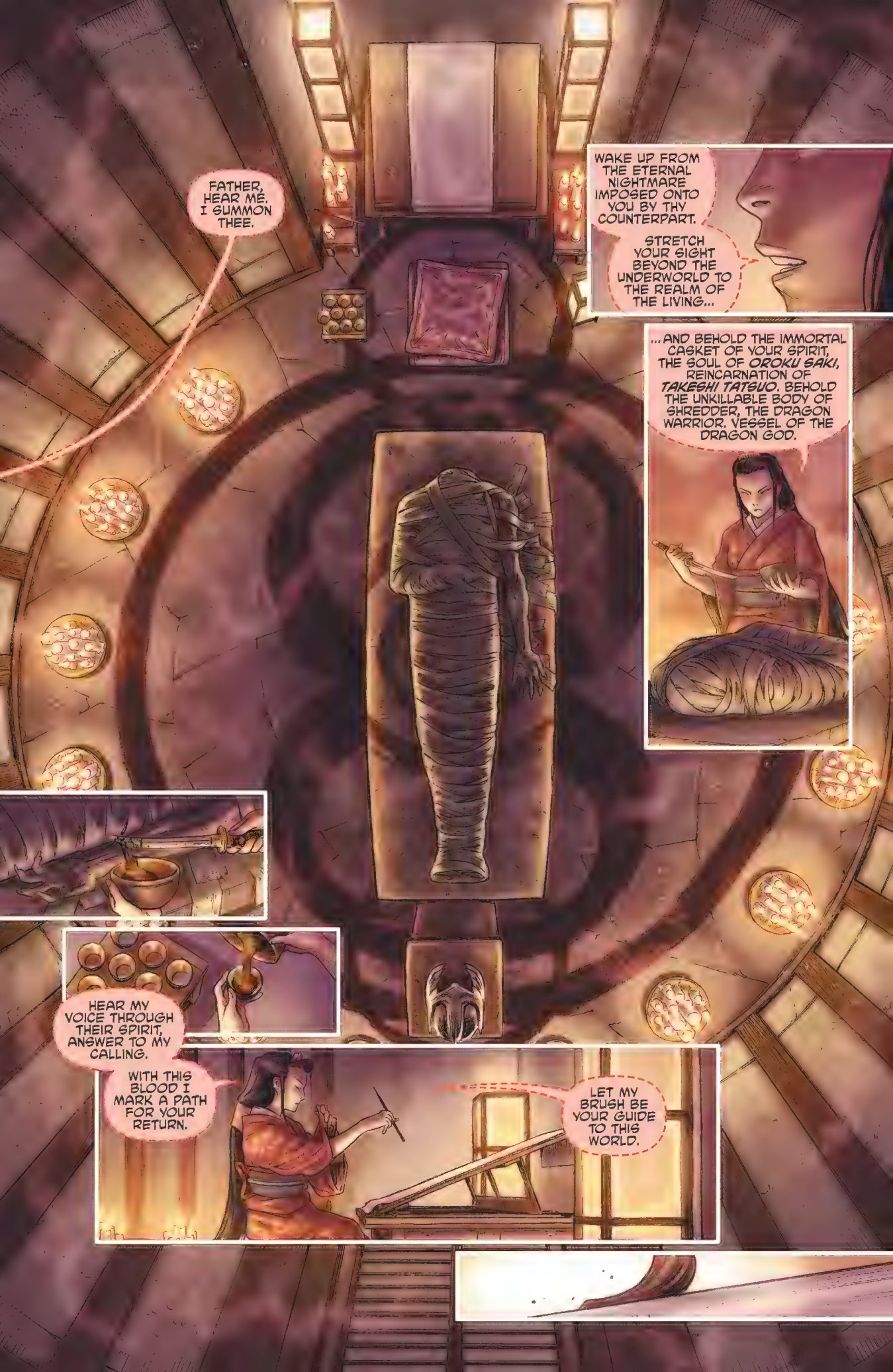
"AND OF THE FUTURE.
"INEVITABLE.
"INEXORABLE.
"ETERNAL."
OH, NO...

...KITSUNE?
AH, GRANDDAUGHTER— YOU HAVE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME...
...TO WITNESS
THE RETURN OF THE DRAGON!

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

SHREDDER IN HELL #1


FATHER, HEAR ME. I SUMMON THEE.
WAKE UP FROM THE ETERNAL NIGHTMARE IMPOSED ONTO YOU BY THY COUNTERPART.
STRETCH YOUR SIGHT BEYOND THE UNDERWORLD TO THE REALM OF THE LIVING...
...AND BEHOLD THE IMMORTAL CASKET OF YOUR SPIRIT, THE SOUL OF *OROKU SAKI*, REINCARNATION OF *TAKESHI TATSUO*. BEHOLD THE UNKILLABLE BODY OF SHREDDER, THE DRAGON WARRIOR. VESSEL OF THE DRAGON GOD.
HEAR MY VOICE THROUGH THEIR SPIRIT, ANSWER TO MY CALLING.
WITH THIS BLOOD I MARK A PATH FOR YOUR RETURN.
LET MY BRUSH BE YOUR GUIDE TO THIS WORLD.

LOOK THROUGH THE SINGULAR SOUL OF THESE MEN. THEY ARE THE KEY TO ACCESS THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE BODY I'VE PREPARED FOR YOU. HEAR ME, FATHER.

HEAR ME, ALMIGHTY DRAGON GOD.

LET THE HEAVENS BE *WITNESS* TO YOUR DOOM.

COME, SONS OF HAMATO YOSHI.

KNOW YOUR BETTER!

AS I'VE LOOKED BACK ON OUR SHARED PAST, I SAW YOUR *INNATE* AND *UNDENIABLE POWER*.

BUT YOU ARE STILL BOUND TO *CHOOSE* THE PATH THIS POWER WILL *LEAD* YOU TO.

A POWER THAT *DELUDES* YOU INTO BELIEVING YOU CANNOT BE DESTROYED.

IT IS TIME TO CONTROL *THAT* WHICH HAS CONTROLLED YOU FOR SO LONG.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE *FOREST* WE ONCE PLAYED IN AS SMALL BOYS? THE *DREAMS* WE SHARED?

I HAVE *NEVER* GIVEN UP ON THOSE DREAMS.

THE POWER IS NOW IN *YOUR* CONTROL. WHICH PATH DO YOU CHOOSE IN YOUR *DYING* MOMENTS?

I CHOOSE THE *DREAM*, YOSHI.

THERE ARE ONLY *TWO PATHS*, YOSHI—ONE FOR THE MEEK, ONE FOR THE POWERFUL. AND *I. AM. POWER!*

IT IS TRUE—YOU ARE *VERY* POWERFUL. BUT IT IS A POWER THAT CHOSE *YOU*, AND NOT YOU *IT*.

THEN IT IS *MY HONOR* TO HELP YOU KNOW THE DREAM ONCE AGAIN.

KITSUNE... I DO NOT ACCEPT FAILURE. IF THERE *ARE* MANY PATHS... I WILL FIND THE ONE THAT LEADS *BACK* TO YOU.

YOSHI, I WILL SEE YOU IN THE FOREST AGAIN... BROTHER.

I DO NOT DOUBT IT. MY BROTHER.

SHI NG

I TOLD YOU THE FOREST WAS FUN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOSHI!
IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
THE DREAM...

YOSHI... I MADE IT TO THE DREAM...
OH, DID YOU, OROKU SAKI?
I'VE EXPECTED MORE FROM YOU. I THOUGHT WE DIDN'T ACCEPT FAILURE.
WHO IS THIS? SHOW YOURSELF!
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS. BUT HERE YOU ARE, CHOOSING THE PATH OF THE MEEK.
YOU DISGUST ME! MAKING FRIENDS WITH THAT FILTHY CREATURE. THAT ABNORMALITY.
I KNOW YOU... MY ENTIRE LIFE... YOU WERE THE VOICE WHISPERING IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD.

GOOD GUESS. BUT...
THE VOICE THAT SPEAKS TO US IS THAT OF THE DRAGON.
GAH!
HUMPF!
AND YOU DELAY OUR RISE TO BECOME HIM!
YOU?
YES! THE ORIGINAL YOU!

OFF OF ME!
I'M GLAD TO SEE THERE'S *STILL* SOME FIGHT IN YOU.
I WAS STARTING TO THINK YOU WERE *TURNED SOFT* BY ALL OF THAT *RUBBISH* THE FILTHY RAT THREW OVER *US*.
THAT YOU HAD *FORGOTTEN* ABOUT OUR *GLORIOUS DESTINY*.
BUT YOU CAN'T BE...
BUT I *AM!* I AM *TAKESHI TATSUO*, *FOUNDER* OF THE *FOOT CLAN!*
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! *I AM* THE *LIVING SOUL* OF TAKESHI TATSUO.
LIVING? NOT AT THE MOMENT YOU ARE *NOT!*
WHAT *TRICKERY* IS THIS? WHERE'S YOSHI?
THIS IS *NOT* THE DREAM I'VE—
STOP *WHINING* ABOUT THAT *TRAITOR RODENT!*
WE DON'T *NEED* HIM! *WE* ARE THE *KEY* TO UNLOCK *DIVINE POWER!*
THE POWER OF GODS! WE ARE THE *DRAGON WARRIOR*, CARRIER OF THE *DRAGON GOD'S SPIRIT!*
...GOD'S SPIRIT?

SO, THIS IS THE POWER YOSHI WAS TALKING ABOUT...
THE POWER THAT CONTROLLED US!
FOOL!
THIS POWER IS THE REASON YOU EXIST!
AND YOU'LL LEARN THAT, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

GLUB GLUB

YOSHI...

YOSHI!!
EASY, BROTHER. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW. YOU'RE SAFE.
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
WHAT KIND OF DAMNED FOREST HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME TO?
HEH. THIS IS YOUR FOREST, SAKI. I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE. I ONLY CAME TO HONOR MY PROMISE AND HELP YOU TO KNOW THE DREAM ONCE AGAIN.
MY FOREST...? THAT EXPLAINS MY PREVIOUS INCARNATION HAUNTING ME.
TAKESHI IS A MANIFESTATION OF YOUR ANCIENT SELF, YES. BUT THE REASON YOU MET HIM GOES BEYOND THAT. YOUR SOUL IS GETTING TORN APART, MY FRIEND.
IN YOUR HEART, YOU ARE STILL UNCERTAIN OF THE PATH YOU CHOSE WHEN YOU DIED.
I... DIED. BUT YOU? HOW DID YOU...?
WE ALL DIE AT SOME POINT, SAKI. IT IS USELESS TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ASPECT OF THE JOURNEY NOW.
COME, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE.
YOSHI? TAKESHI... IMPLIED THAT WE, HIM AND ME, WE CARRY A GOD INSIDE OUR SOUL...
THE DRAGON GOD. THAT IS TRUE. IT IS THE SOURCE OF THE INCOMMENSURABLE POWER YOU'VE ALWAYS FELT DESTINED FOR...
...BUT IS ALSO THE SOURCE OF ALL THE ANGUISH THAT FOLLOWS THESE DESIRES.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WE ARE AT ONE OF THE MANY REALMS OF THE AFTERLIFE.
A REALM THAT TAKES SHAPES AND FORMS THAT REFLECT THE NEEDS OF EVERY SOUL WHO VISITS IT.
BUT BEHIND THESE DOORS THERE'S SOMETHING THAT NEVER CHANGES AND ALWAYS REMAINS...

THE TREE OF LIFE. THE MATRIX OF ALL HUMAN SOULS.
EVERY BEING THAT HAS LIVED ON EARTH IS A PRODUCT, A FRUIT, OF THE MYSTERIOUS DEITY THAT SLEEPS INSIDE THE TREE.
ALL OF OUR EXPERIENCES ARE ITS DREAMS. BEFORE YOU WERE ANYTHING, YOU WERE IT.
THE DREAMER.
OROKU SAKI, TAKESHI TATSUO, HAMATO YOSHI, OR SPLINTER... THESE ARE THE DREAMS. WHO WE REALLY ARE IS SLEEPING INSIDE THIS TREE.
I'M SURE MICHELANGELO WOULD MAKE A VERY ASTUTE ANALOGY TO HIS VIDEO GAMES RIGHT NOW...
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN I MUST BE ITS NIGHTMARE...
LISTEN, MY FRIEND. JUST LIKE THIS TREE, YOU ARE A VESSEL FOR A POWERFUL FORCE, AN UNMERCIFUL GOD AND THE DREAMER'S COUNTERPART.
YOU HAD NEVER KNOWN AN EXISTENCE WITHOUT THAT SPIRIT IMPRISONED INSIDE YOUR SOUL. IN MANY WAYS, HE IS THE CORNERSTONE OF WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE. AND THERE'S WHERE LIES THE SOURCE OF YOUR CONFLICT, YOUR FEARS AND THE REASON WHY YOU ARE SO EAGER FOR POWER AND CONTROL.

BUT I CHOSE THE DREAM, YOSHI! I CHOSE TO CONTROL THAT WHICH HAD CONTROLLED ME.
AND STILL YOU ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE.
EVEN RIGHT NOW THE DRAGON IS POISONING YOUR EVERY DECISION.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO THIS PLACE WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAKING A CHOICE OF YOUR OWN.
SO CHOOSE. WILL YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO THE DRAGON'S AGENDA OR WILL YOU LET GO OF ALL FEARS, AND ACCEPT THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS CONTROL?
NO CONTROL? BUT THAT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING I FIGHT FOR! EVERYTHING I AM!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU TRULY ARE, YOU MUST FIRST LET GO OF WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE.
YOUR WORDS MAKE NO SENSE, RAT!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. OROKU SAKI IS NOT A DREAM. IT'S A NIGHTMARE.
A NIGHTMARE RULED BY THE DRAGON GOD.
AND IT IS NOT A POWER YOU CAN CONTROL ON YOUR OWN.
YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET FREE FROM THIS BURDEN IS TO BECOME ONE WITH THE DREAMER. YOU MUST BE OROKU SAKI NO MORE.
OTHERWISE, YOU'RE DOOMED TO FULFILL THE DRAGON GOD'S DESTINY AND END ALL HUMAN LIFE ON EARTH.
DO YOU HEAR THE ABSURDITIES YOU SPEAK?
HOW ARE ANY OF THOSE OPTIONS DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER?
I WILL NOT DELIVER MY SOUL TO ANY OF THESE PUPPET MASTERS, NOT DRAGON OR DREAMER!
MY GOAL REMAINS THE SAME AS IT ALWAYS HAD BEEN! I WILL TAKE THE REINS OF MY FATE IN MY OWN HANDS!
AND YET YOU FAIL TO SEE NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO CREATE A NEW PATH FOR YOURSELF. ONE WITHOUT THE DRAGON'S INFLUENCE.
BUT THE CHOICE IS YOURS ALONE, BROTHER. I'VE ONLY PROMISED I WOULD SHOW YOU THE DREAM.
NOW YOU ARE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO WAKE UP FROM IT.
THAT'S WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BROTHER. I HAVE ALSO MADE A PROMISE MYSELF...

I MUST FIND A WAY BACK TO HER!
...
HE LOVES HER...
HE DOES.
TANG SHEN...?
GO.
GO, MY LOVE. HELP YOUR FRIEND...
...AND SAVE THE WORLD.

SAK!
WAIT!
I... ARGH!
...CAME T-TO...
...UGH— HELP-P...
...YOUUUU...

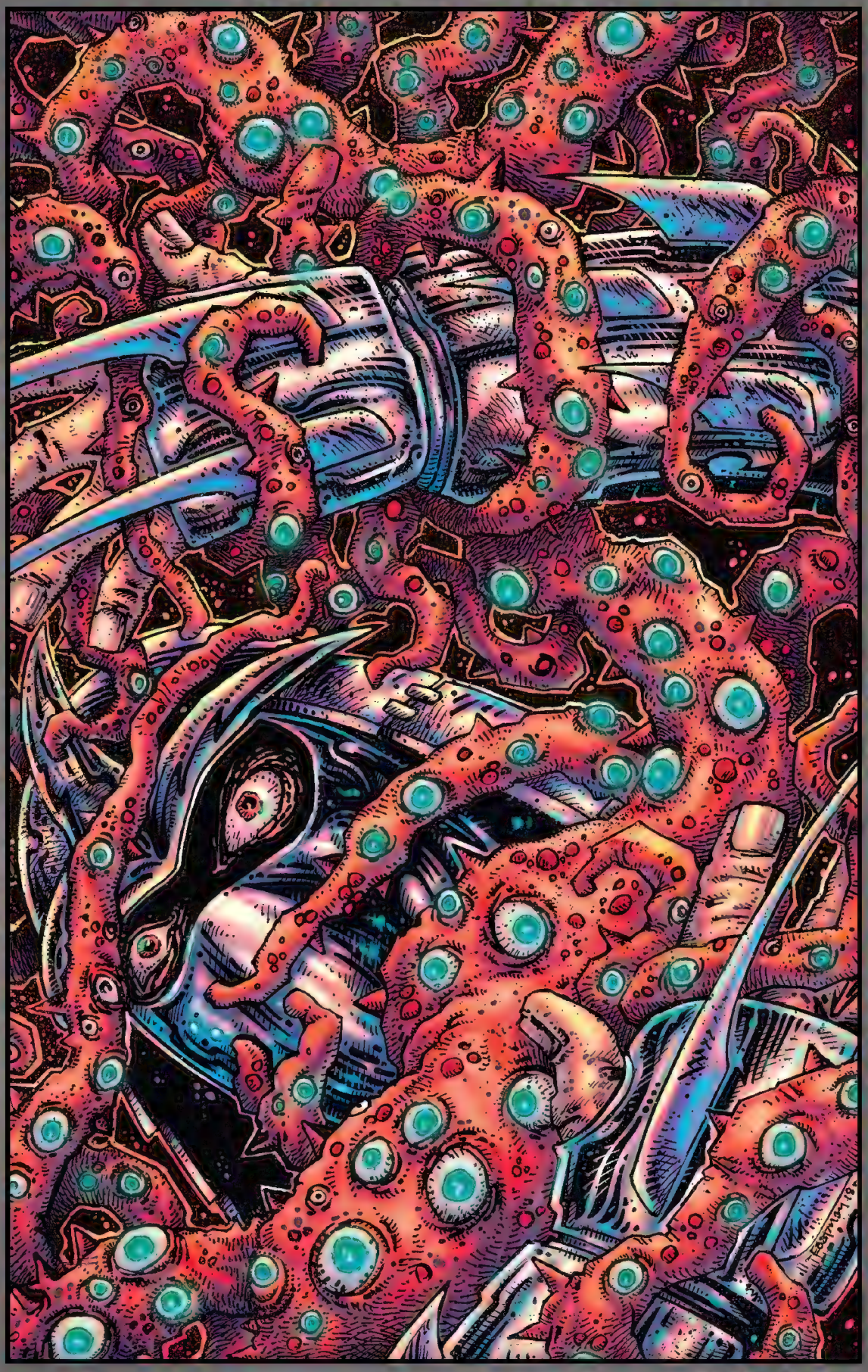
YOSHI!
SKREEE
WAIT!
NO!
HOLD ON!
WHAT?
HEH. YOU ALL RIGHT THERE, LITTLE FRIEND?
SKREEE SKREEE
FINE THEN. LET'S DO THIS.

YOU...
YOU...
YOU BASTARD!

I'LL DESTROY YOU!
THE SAVATE! HERE?
RIP 'EM APART!
RAH!
GET HIM!
YOU KILLED US! NOW WE'LL KILL YOU!
MONSTERS! YOU COULD NOT DEFEAT ME ONCE AND YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME NOW!
YOU ARE THE MONSTER!
YOU MURDERED US ALL!
GAH!
HELP!
DIEEE...

DIE!
UNFH!
KIAI!
ARGH!
SKREEE
MY FACE! MY FACE!
SKREEE
DEATH HASN'T CHANGED YOU, VICTOR, LEADER OF THE SAVATE.
YOU ARE THE SAME FOOL WHO THOUGHT HE COULD OPPOSE ME.
YOU... YOU BASTARD... THIS WAS YOUR LAST MISTA–
SWIP
OH YEAH! NOW THAT'S THE SHREDDER I KNOW!
GNARLY!
LACKING TECHNIQUE, BUT EFFECTIVE.
GUYS? DOESN'T THAT RAT LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?

SURPRISED, OROKU SUCKY?
WHAT DID HE SAY THE LAST TIME?
"COME KNOW YOUR BETTER..."
YEAH– BETTER AT *LOSING HIS HEAD.*
SHUT THE HELL UP, MIKEY!
THE SONG... OF HAMATO YOSHI!
SKREEE



art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

SHREDDER IN HELL #2

SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, SHRED-HEAD?
MOLTEN LAVA?
OR THE END OF OUR BLADES?
YEAH! JUST PICK ONE ALREADY!
HEAR ME OUT, SONS OF HAMATO YOSHI. I MEAN NO HARM TO YOU IN THIS REALM.
I'M HERE WITH YOUR FATHER TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING MUCH LARGER THAN THE FOOLISH QUEST FOR REVENGE I LAID UPON YOU IN OUR LIFETIME TOGETHER.
THAT AIN'T OUR FATHER!
C'MON, GUYS...
AND I HAVE A REALLY HARD TIME BELIEVING YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT IS NOT FOOLISH.
LET'S FINISH THIS!

RARR!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
NO, HE'S NOT!
UMPF!
FWAM
GO, NINJA, GO!
CLANG
BOOYA!
KRAK

COWA-
-BUNGA!
SHNK
HEH!
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, BRO?
CHUD
YEP!
SWIP
WATCH YOUR STEP!
DEATH HAS SLOWED YOU DOWN, SHREDS!
YEAH! WHO'S MET HIS BETTER NOW, HUH?

END HIM, RAPH!
I'M ON IT, BRO–
–ARGH!
SKREEEE
GET OFF ME!
SKREEE
HELP! CALL AN EXTERMINATOR!
GOTCHA!
SKREEE
GRFF!

YOU OKAY?
SKREEE
GOOD. NOW LET'S TEACH YOUR KIDS A LESSON.
FILTHY MUTANTS! YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR OWN FATHER?
WHERE IS YOUR LOYALTY? WHERE IS YOUR HONOR?
HAHAHA! HE'S PISSED!
AND HAS A SWORD NOW– HAHA!
WHAT DO YOU THINK GUYS? SHOULD WE CALL BACKUP?
LET ME DO IT, LEO? PRETTY PLEASE?
SURE, GO AHEAD, LITTLE BRO!
OKAY! HERE WE GO!
UGA-BUGA-UGA-BUGA-UGA-BUGA!
HAHA HAHA!
MRRR...
YO, VICTOR!
RAHRM...
DON'T FORGET YOUR HEAD!

FINALLY...
...REVENGE!
GLUB
DIE, YOU BASTA–
FWOMP
GRAB HIM!
ZOMBIE PILE!
RRAAHH...
HHHRR...
NOOO!

HNH!
UMPH! NOT COOL!
SKREEE
GRAH!
RRRGG!
ACCEPT YOUR FAILURE! YOUR DESTINY IS TO DIE HERE, OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
NO.
GRAR!

GATHER...
GATHER...

GATHER...
GATHEBLUERGH-
WRRRRRRH
SKREE
WHAT THE—
CHUNIN!

I.
AM NOT.
IMPRESSED.
MASTER MASATO?
YOU MAY VERY WELL HAVE CONQUERED MUCH, BUT YOU ARE STILL THAT FRIGHTENED BOY DESPERATE FOR RECOGNITION.
A VAIN SOUL WHO THINKS TOO MUCH OF ITSELF.
NOTHING BUT A PUPPET...
...IN THE HANDS OF TAKESHI TATSUO.

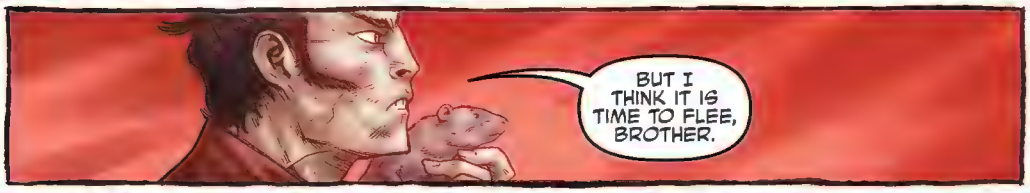
QUIET, OLD MAN!
GHH...
...HRNNG...
!
GRRLAGH
HNH!
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?
FWOOM

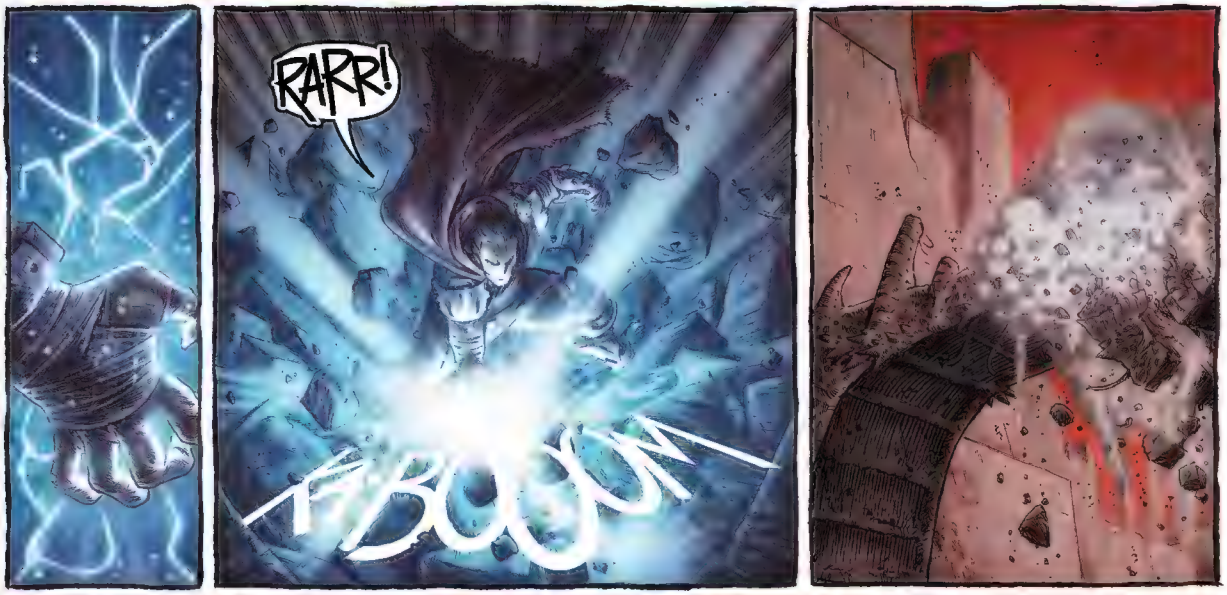
SHRUGH
AS ALWAYS...
YOU'RE FEELING ENTITLED TO SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT. YOUR FATE BELONGS TO THE DRAGON!
F-FATHER?
BUT YOU ARE A *PATHETIC, SPOILED* BRAT!
TALKING ABOUT *HONOR* AND *FAMILY*, AS IF YOU KNEW *ANYTHING* ABOUT IT!
YOU ARE BUT A *HYPOCRITE!*
A CRYING BABY!

YOSHI'S SONS HAD MORE HONOR IN ONE LIFE THAN YOU WILL EVER HAVE!
SHING
LOOK AT THAT COWARD SAVATE, VICTOR. HE REMAINED LOYAL TO HIS GROUP TILL HIS VERY LAST BREATH. CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?
EVEN YOSHI, THE RAT, WHO LOST ALL HIS LOVED ONES AT THE HANDS OF THE FOOT, RETURNED TO THE CLAN TO HONOR ITS HISTORY.
SWISH
AND YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
SHIK
GAH!
YOU KILLED YOUR JONIN.
NO...
YOU BETRAYED YOUR CLAN BROTHERS.
WAIT— UGH!
AND YOU KILLED YOUR OWN FATHER!
FATHER...

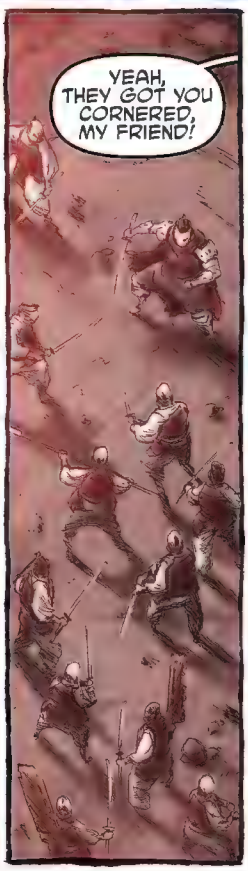
STOP CALLING ME FATHER...
...AND PAY THE PRICE OF BETRAYING YOUR LORD!
HM?
SKREEE
SKREEE
SMASH
WELL DONE, YOSHI!

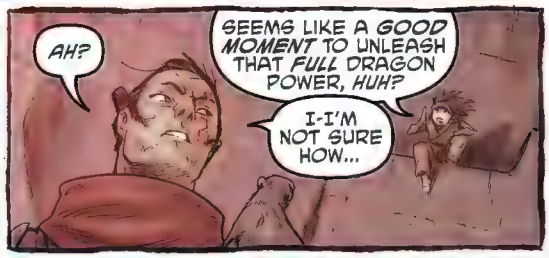
RAHNG
UHHRRGGG


BUT I THINK IT IS TIME TO FLEE, BROTHER.

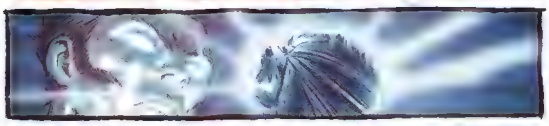

RARR!
BOOM

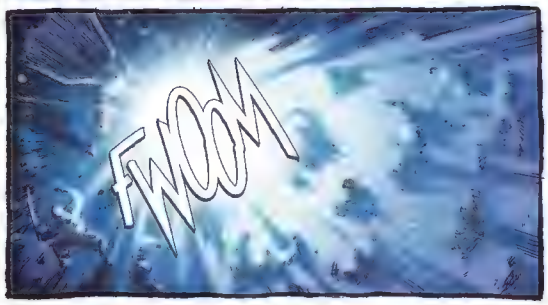
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!


YEAH, THEY GOT YOU CORNERED, MY FRIEND!


AH?
SEEMS LIKE A GOOD MOMENT TO UNLEASH THAT FULL DRAGON POWER, HUH?
I-I'M NOT SURE HOW...

C'MON! YOU GOT THIS, DAMN IT!




FWOOM

SO THIS IS YOUR POWER?
YOU THINK IT'S POWER ENOUGH?
ENOUGH TO KILL A GOD?
NO. YOU ARE JUST DELUDED.
HYAH!
DELUDED INTO BELIEVING...
...THE DRAGON GOD CAN BE DESTROYED!
GAH!
RARR!
ARGH!

I'M OKAY... I'M OKAY...
GOOD TO KNOW!
I WAS *NOT* TALKING TO *YOU!*
NOW I REMEMBER YOU...
Y-YOU'RE THE *DEMON* WHO TRICKED ME INTO KILLING MY OLDER SELF WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS INFERNAL PLACE.*
HEY, I'VE ONLY GIVEN YOU WHAT YOU NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL VACATION. THAT'S MY JOB!
I HAVE THE SOLEMN DUTY OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE TRAVELERS OF THE UNDERWORLD SO THEY CAN FIND WHATEVER IT IS THEY'VE COME LOOKING FOR.
NOT MY FAULT YOU'RE SUCH A DARK FELLOW.
*See TMNT Villain Micro-Series: Shredder – B.C.
HMM—SO THAT'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR?
TO WAGE ENDLESS WARS WITH *ALL* THAT CROSS MY PATH. *FRIEND* OR *FOE.*
IF YOU SAY SO...
BUT MAYBE THAT LADY OVER THERE CAN GIVE YOU A SECOND OPINION.
KITSUNE?
KITSUNE! W-WAIT...

KITSUNE.

A MEMORY...?

TAKESHI TATSUO! DEATH COMES FOR YOU THIS NIGHT!

DRINK THIS ELIXIR, MY LORD, AND YOUR WEARINESS WILL BE BUT A MEMORY.

ANOTHER NIGHTMARE?

FATHER...

NONE OF THESE THINGS BELONG TO YOU!

ARGH!

FATHER...

I RECOGNIZE YOUR ANGER... AND I DO NOT ENVY THE STRUGGLE YOU HAVE TO CONQUER IT.

PERHAPS MY DESTINY IS NOT WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED AFTER ALL.

OR CONSIDER THAT YOUR ANGER IS WHAT TRULY DELAYS YOUR DESTINY, OROKU SAKI.

THE ASHI NO HIMITSU...

NO!

YOU'VE HIDDEN EVERYTHING FROM ME.

YOU TRIED TO DENY MY DESTINY.

TO *DENY* A GOD!

I WAS SO CERTAIN I WOULD DEFEAT YOU...

THAT I WOULD RULE FOREVER...

TAKESHI...

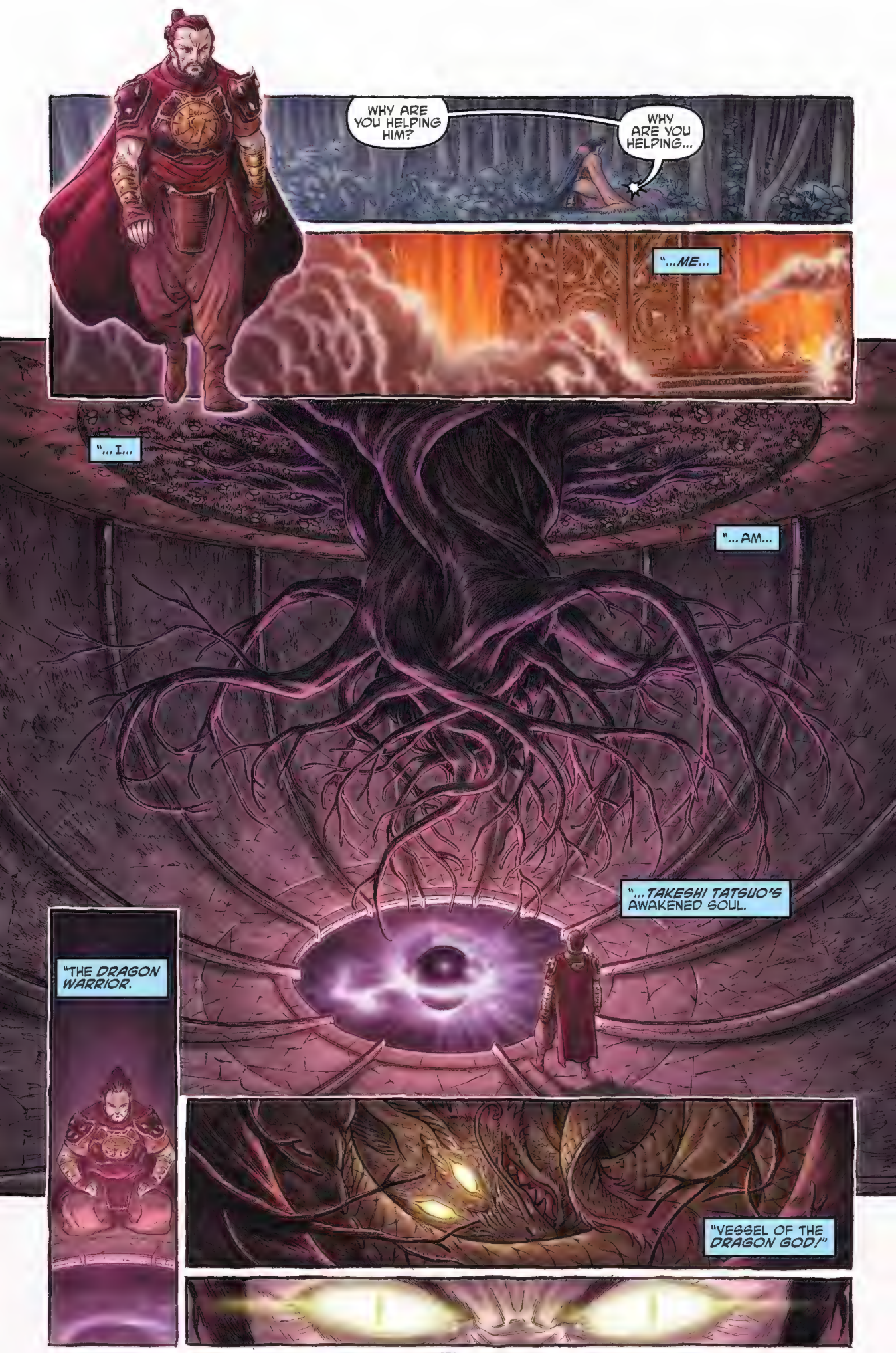
KITSUNE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

NOOO!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?


WHY ARE YOU HELPING HIM?
WHY ARE YOU HELPING...
"...ME...
"...I...
"...AM...
"...TAKESHI TATSUO'S AWAKENED SOUL.
"THE DRAGON WARRIOR.
"VESSEL OF THE DRAGON GOD!"

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI UARGA

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

SHREDDER IN HELL #3

I HEED THEE, TAKESHI TATSUO.
AND YET, YOU ARE NOT HERE UNDIVIDEDLY.
MY SOUL... IT HAS BEEN TORN IN TWO.
YOUR SOUL IS BUT ONE STILL. HOWEVER, THE ECHOES OF THE FLESH IT ABIDED IN ARE UNSYNCHRONIZED. VIBRATING IN OPPOSITION TO ONE ANOTHER AND PERPETUATING DISSONANCE BETWEEN THE EGOS OF YOUR UNIQUE SELF.
AND I MUST NOT ALLOW THIS SELF TO AWAKE...
"...FROM ITS DREAM."
KA-KROOM
GAH!

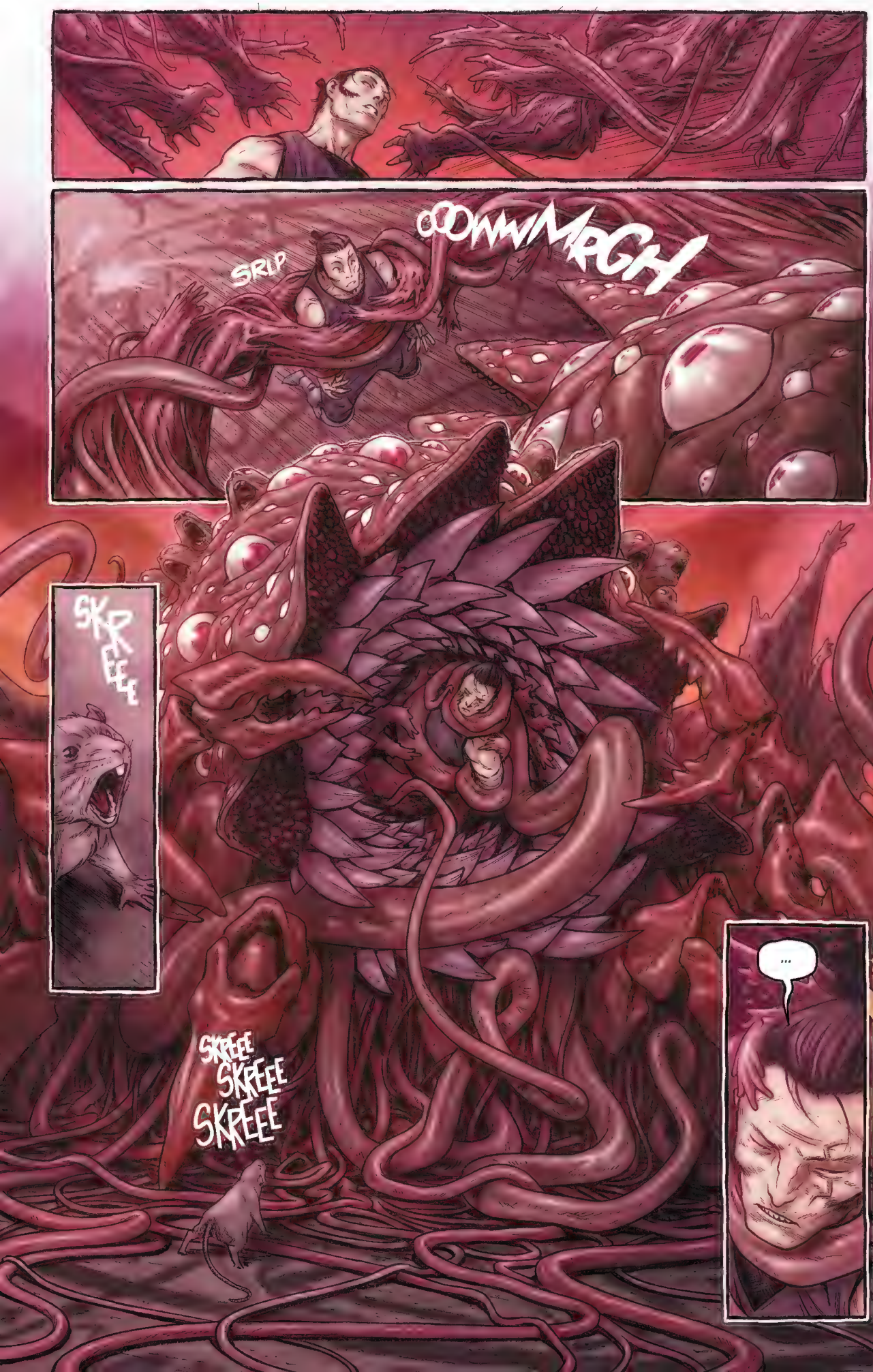
GLAD TO SEE YOU IN *ONE PIECE*, DRAGON WARRIOR.
SKREEE
DO NOT CALL ME *THAT* ANYMORE...
MY NAME IS OROKU SAKI.
THE SHREDDER.
SKREEE
FINE BY ME.
TELL ME, DEMON CHILD. HOW CAN WE FIND A *WAY BACK* TO THE DREAM FOREST?
SORRY, SIR. BUT THAT IS OUT OF MY LEAGUE.
I AM A *LOW ENTITY*—THIS REALM IS MY KINGDOM, AND I KNOW *NOTHING* OF THE REALMS *ABOVE*.
ONLY *ASCENDING SPIRITS* HAVE ACCESS TO THE DREAM.
WE COULD HAVE ASKED YOUR PET, BUT...
...HE GAVE UP *NIRVANA* WHEN HE CAME TO THIS PLACE TO HELP YOU.
SKREEE...

I AM TRULY SORRY, BROTHER. I'VE BLINDLY DRAGGED US ALL TO THIS TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE.
WELL, AT LEAST FOR NOW, MY WORK HERE IS DONE. GOOD LUCK FINDING THAT FOREST OF YOURS, OROKU SAKI.
THANK YOU. YOUR ASSISTANCE WAS DULY NOTED, DEMON.
YOU CAN SKIP THE FORMALITIES, SIR. EVERYONE AROUND HERE CALLS ME KID.
FAIR ENOUGH. GOODBYE, KID DEMON.
SEE YOU SOON, SHREDDER. AND FAREWELL, YOSHI SENSEI.
SKREEE?
...KITSUNE.
AS SAKI... TAKESHI... IT HAS NEVER MATTERED THE MAN I WAS. FREEING THE DRAGON FROM ITS PRISON HAS ALWAYS BEEN HER SOLE PURPOSE.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS OFFERING ME POWER. IMMORTALITY. CONTROL OVER THINGS THAT CANNOT BE CONTROLLED. I THOUGHT THAT WAS... LOVE.
BUT I WAS ONLY BEING MANIPULATED.
THOSE ARE WISE WORDS...

...COMING FROM THE MOUTH OF SUCH FOOLISH MAN.
I CAN SEE THAT NOW, FATHER.
SO, AT LAST YOU HAVE ACCEPTED YOUR DESTINY.
I ACCEPT THAT I BROUGHT THIS ON MYSELF.
I STAND BEFORE YOU, DEFEATED. KNOWING THAT MY DESTINY WAS NEVER MINE TO DECIDE.
...
?
NOOOAARGH

MRRAH...
HMMR...
RAHR...
SKREEEP
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOSHI. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
SSSS
SLMMC
SRIMP

SRLP
GLUB
GLUB
SRLP
GLUB
WUAAAP
SKREEEEEEE


SRLP
OOOWWMRGH
SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
SKREEE
...

SKREEEEEE
NHACK
UMPH!
KRKK
CHUD
YOSH!!
YOSH...

HAVE YOU FELT IT?
MY SOUL...
IT JEOPARDIZES THE LIBERATION OF MY SPIRIT.
...IS AWAKENING...
THEN IT MUST BE CONTAINED.
BUT IT SHARES OUR POWER.
"WILL I BE ABLE TO SUPPRESS IT?"
KSSH
"THAT ECHO DOES SHARE MY FORCE INDEED. BUT ITS REFUSAL TO JOIN WITH ME MAKES ITS LINK TO MY POWER TOO FRAGILE.
"IT WILL STAND NO CHANCE, NOW THAT YOU ARE BECOMING ONE WITH MY SPIRIT.

"SOON THESE ECHOES WILL CEASE TO EXIST, AND YOU SHALL KNOW WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE THE DRAGON WARRIOR.
"A PRISON SCULPTED INTO A FORTRESS.
IT'S HIM!
THE DRAGON!
"A WEAPON DESIGNED TO RULE THIS AND ALL REALMS."

WOOARGH
HUMMF!
DAMN YOU!
FWOM
DAMN YOU TO HELL!
SWIIIP
SWIIIP

DIE!
HEHEHEH. ONE DAY YOU'LL REALIZE, AS I DID, THAT REAL DEATH IS SOMETHING BEYOND OUR GRASP.
IT WAS THE FOX'S MAGIC.
IT CHANGED MORE THAN OUR BODY.
HEHEHEH. IT ALTERED THE VERY NATURE OF OUR SPIRIT.
NOW, MY YOUNG SELF, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE GLORIOUS GROTESQUE THAT YOU ULTIMATELY WILL BECOME.
HA HA HA
I SAID DIE!
RAGH!
BADOOM

DIE...
SKREE...
YOSHI?
YOSHI!
SKRRR...
HOLD ON, BROTHER. I'LL GET YOU HELP.
DEMON! KID DEMON! WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE ONCE AGAIN!
PLEASE...

I-I'M SORRY...
...BROTHER...

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
ARE WE DONE?

WE ARE, TAKESHI TATSUO.
TAKESHI TATSUO IS NO MORE. ONLY THE DRAGON REMAINS.
DON'T BE A FOOL, WARRIOR! IN BOTH OUR LIVES WE HAVE BEEN USED! THESE ENTITIES SEE US AS MERE TOOLS AT THEIR DISPOSAL.
WE NEED TO WAKE UP!
ENOUGH TALKING. WE'LL DO THIS BY FORCE THEN.
TAKE HIM!
MARCH

YOU KNOW... I'M CUR-IOUS.
GRAH!
ALL OF HIS LIFE, OROKU SAKI HAS WORKED IN UNISON WITH HIS PREVIOUS INCARNATION.
UMPF!
ACCOMPLISHING THINGS THAT HUMAN BEINGS CAN ONLY DREAM OF.
HYA!
AND NOW THAT HE IS SO CLOSE TO FULFILLING THE MASTER PLAN DESIGNED FOR HIS EXISTENCE, HE BACKS OFF.
SO TELL ME.
WHAT WAS IT THAT CHANGED YOUR HEART?

FWOM
FWOM
NOOOO...
...YOU ARE NOT SAYING THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF HER?
SHUT UP!
HEH-HEH-HEH!
THAT IS SO SAD... AT THE END YOU'RE JUST A HEARTBROKEN BOY!

SHUT UP!
YOU REALLY THOUGHT AN IMMORTAL CREATURE LIKE HER COULD EVER LOVE A HUMAN LIKE US?
FWAM
KOOSH
WELL...
...SHE DID, IN FACT, DEAL WITH US DIFFERENTLY.
AND THAT IS SOMETHING THAT TRICKS ME.
FWOOM
TAKESHI TATSUO SPENT MORE THAN A CENTURY ALONGSIDE KITSUNE.
UNGH...

HE KNEW EVERYTHING SHE HAD PLANNED FOR HIM.
THUD
HE WAS AWARE OF THE DRAGON TRAPPED INSIDE OUR SOUL. SHE TOLD HIM THAT!
OOFF!
NOW, HOW LONG HAS OROKU SAKI LIVED NEXT TO HER?
ARGH!
A DECADE? TWO?
SO, WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM?
WHY HAS THE FOX HIDDEN THE WHOLE OF THE TRUTH FROM YOU?
WHAT WAS SHE SO AFRAID OF?
HHNGK...
MAYBE YOUR HEART WAS RIGHT ABOUT HER...
...BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. THE SHREDDER WILL JOIN THE DRAGON...
...WHETHER SHE LIKES IT OR NOT.

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by TOMI VARGA

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

SHREDDER IN HELL #4

LOOK!
HE'S BACK...
AND HE GOT THE VESSEL!
ALL HAIL THE DRAGON GOD!
ALL HAIL THE DRAGON GOD!
GUARD THE GATES.
NO ONE GETS IN. NO ONE GETS OUT.
YES, MY LORD.
YOU HAVE ALL HEARD!
SET A PERIMETER AROUND THE FORTRESS! COVER EVERY ENTRANCE!

GO! GO! GO!
YO! CHECK THIS WEIRD THING OUT.
WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
COFF COFF
THIS MIST...
THIS IS NOT NORMAL. EVEN FOR THIS PLACE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG. WE BETTER WARN THE DRAGON.

I HEED THEE...
...OROKU SAKI.
THE CYCLE IS ALMOST COMPLETE NOW.
RISE AND FULFILL YOUR GLORIOUS DESTINY.
OBEY, YOU FOOL!

HOW INTERESTING. THE *WILL* OF THESE *AVATARS* IS REMARKABLE.
AT THIS POINT, THE *TWO* OF YOU SHOULD BE IN SYNC. A *SINGLE REFLECTION.*
BUT *BOTH* REMAIN...
...*DIVIDED.* SEPARATE ECHOES OF THE FLESH UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THEY ARE BUT *ONE.*
THE VERY SAME SOUL. MY *PRISON.*
ARE YOU BOTH UNABLE TO SEE THE OBVIOUS *TRUTH?*
YOUR *RAW SOUL* MAY BE THE *KEY* TO *FREE* MYSELF FROM MY *SIBLING'S TRAP* AND ACCESS THE *ENHANCED BODY* I REQUIRE.
BUT THE MEN YOU WERE ARE *IRRELEVANT.*
NOT NEEDED.
ARGH!
SHIING
HELP!

ARGH!
GAH!
WHAT IN THE BLOODY HELL IS GOING ON?
NO...
WHO?

IT'S ME, BROTHER. I'VE GOT A SECOND CHANCE TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO YOU.
YOSHI!
GAARH!
FWP
SHNK
YAH!
NOO!

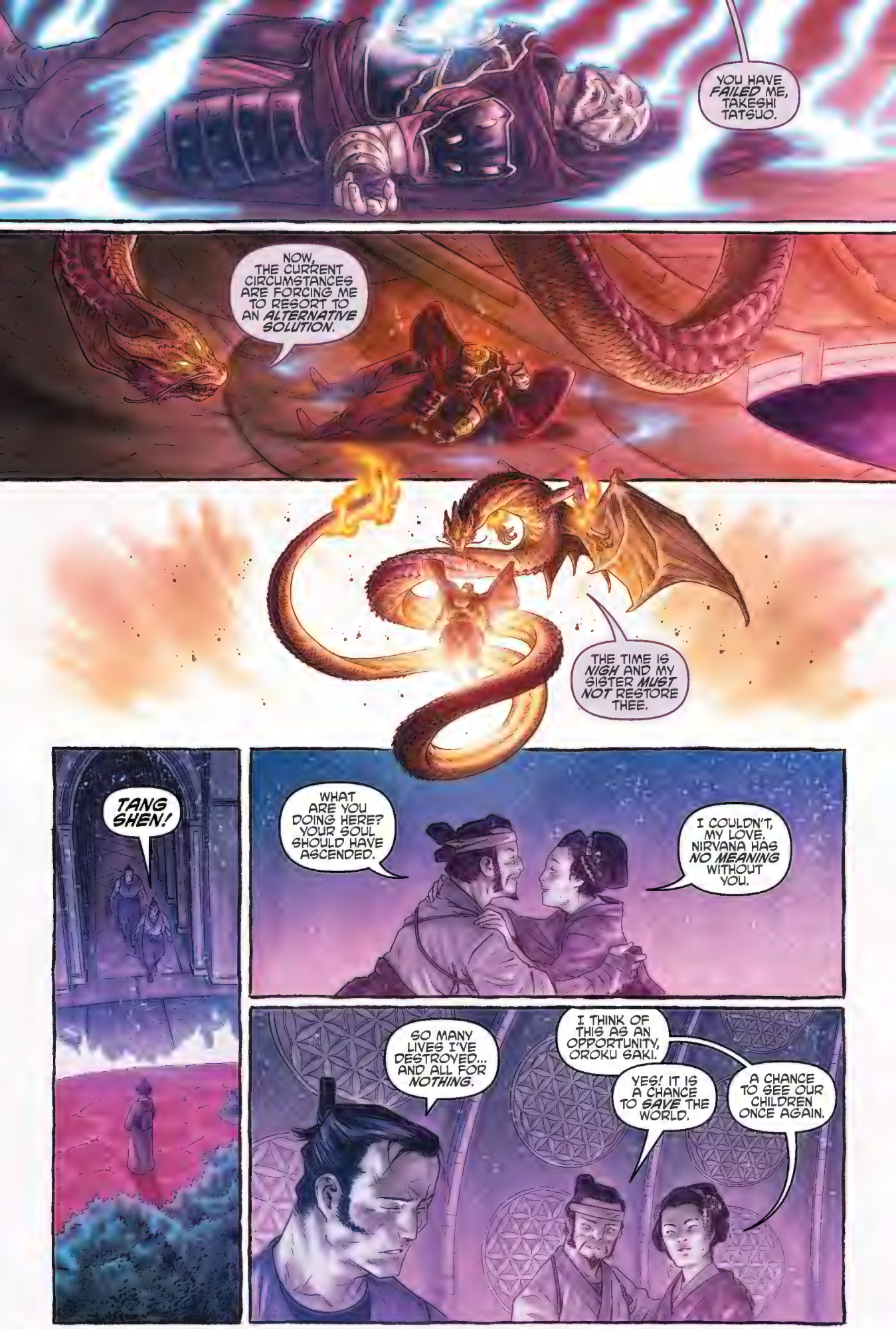
KPKK
UGH!
BE READY, SAKI!
FWAM
WHACK
HOW?
LEAVE THE EXPLANATIONS FOR LATER, MY FRIEND.
YOU MUST LEAVE THIS DAMNED PLACE IMMEDIATELY.
BUT...
GO!
NOW!
FWOMP

THE VESSEL!
STOP HIM!
DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!
ARGH!
OUT OF MY WAY, DEMONS!
UMPF!

KRACK
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU STAND ANY CHANCE, RAT?
MY POWER IS ABSOLUTE!
I AM THE DRAGON!
NO...
UMPF!
...YOU ARE NOT!
KRACK
YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE DRAGON IS STRONG. BUT YOU ARE NOT ONE WITH HIM YET.
YOU ARE NOT A GOD.
WE ARE JUST LUCID DREAMS, CHANNELING THE DIVINE.

SOON, SAKI WILL BECOME LUCID TOO!
GAH!
AND YOU WILL BE GONE...
FWAM
"...FOREVER!"
YOSHI...
FWOOOM
ALL RIGHT, BROTHER.

TIME TO WAKE YOU UP.
W-WHAT HAPPENED? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE.
I WAS... BUT MY MISSION WITH YOU WAS NOT COMPLETED AND THIS CONSPIRACY IS WAY TOO IMPORTANT FOR THE DREAMER TO IGNORE.
NOW, LET US GO BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED.
LET US GO BACK TO THE DREAM.


YOU HAVE FAILED ME, TAKESHI TATSUO.
NOW, THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE FORCING ME TO RESORT TO AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION.
THE TIME IS NIGH AND MY SISTER MUST NOT RESTORE THEE.
TANG SHEN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOUR SOUL SHOULD HAVE ASCENDED.
I COULDN'T, MY LOVE. NIRVANA HAS NO MEANING WITHOUT YOU.
SO MANY LIVES I'VE DESTROYED... AND ALL FOR NOTHING.
I THINK OF THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY, OROKU SAKI.
YES! IT IS A CHANCE TO SAVE THE WORLD.
A CHANCE TO SEE OUR CHILDREN ONCE AGAIN.

NIRVANA MAY BE OUT OF OUR REACH NOW. BUT IT IS NOT FOR YOU.
BE WISE, OROKU SAKI. LET GO OF ALL FEARS AND DESIRES. THE FATE OF THIS UNIVERSE IS IN YOUR HANDS NOW.
AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE TWO OF YOU?
WE WILL REINCARNATE AND LIVE ANEW IN THE EARTHLY REALMS.
BUT IF WE MUST RETURN TO THE WHEEL OF SAMSARA...
WE'LL MAKE SURE TO FIND ONE ANOTHER...
AND BE A FAMILY AGAIN.
GOOD LUCK...
...MY FRIENDS.

CREEEK
...
OOOO

THE DREAMER...
MY SISTER IS ABOUT TO AWAKE THY SOUL COMPLETELY.
SHOW ME.
BUT EVEN BEING A PUNY PORTION OF IT, TAKESHI TATSUO'S FAINT REFLECTION IS LEVERAGE ENOUGH.
MY BEAUTIFUL BROTHER.
ONE THAT I SHALL CONSTRAIN INSIDE MY SPIRIT...
CAN YOU REMOVE IT?
...IN ORDER TO SUBVERT THE OUTCOME OF THE EVENTS ABOUT TO COME.
THAT IS NOT MY CHOICE TO BE MADE.
BUT I'LL SECURE YOUR SACRED RIGHT TO FREE WILL.
IF TRUE FREEDOM SLIPS THROUGH MY FINGERS, THEN I'LL HAVE TO BE CONTENT WITH THE NEXT ACCEPTABLE POSSIBILITY. A PAROLE.

TO ALL HUMANS, THE PATH OF KNOWING THEIR TRUE SELVES IS THE PATH OF FORGETTING ABOUT THEMSELVES.
YOUR EXTRAORDINARY CONDITION THOUGH REQUIRES SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.
NONE OF THY INCARNATIONS EVER KNEW AN EXISTENCE THAT WAS NOT SHARED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE DRAGON.
THEREFORE, INESCAPABLY, THE PATH FOR KNOWING THY TRUE SELF–
–MUST GO THROUGH MY BROTHER AND ME FIRST.
FROM HIS SINGULARITY, OUR FATHER BRAHMA CONCEIVED US SIBLINGS TO OPERATE WITHIN HIS CREATION.
FOR THAT PURPOSE HE MANIFESTED IN US THE DUAL ASPECTS OF HIS PERSONALITY. ONE TO MAINTAIN, ONE TO DESTROY.
WE GREW ISOLATED FROM HIS OMNISCIENCE. NEVER KNOWING EXACTLY THE FULL EXTENSION OF OUR CREATOR'S MASTER PLAN.
HE GIFTED US WITH THIS RAW UNIVERSE AND ALL THE ELEMENTS IN IT.
TO UNDERSTAND OUR CREATOR, WE BECAME CREATORS OURSELVES.
I GAVE LIFE TO BIRTH.
THE DRAGON GAVE LIFE TO HUNGER.
THE MANY SENTIENT BEINGS WE'VE CREATED YIELDED RICH AND INSIGHTFUL CLUES ABOUT OUR MYSTERIOUS PURPOSE.
BUT MY SIBLING IS AN UNSETTLED DEITY. NEVER SATISFIED.
OVER AND OVER, OUR CREATION BEGAN ANEW.
IN THE ATTEMPT TO EASE HIS NONCONFORMITY I HELPED THE DRAGON TO DESIGN HIS ULTIMATE PROJECT.
HIS MOST BELOVED CREATURES.
A PANTHEON OF DEMIGODS, WISE AND POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MANIPULATE AND INTERVENE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF CREATION.

BUT I, FOR ONE, NEEDED *MORE.*

I WISHED TO *REPLICATE* MY FATHER'S *DIVINE CONCEPT* AND *BE* TO *THIS UNIVERSE* WHAT BRAHMA *IS* TO THE *MULTIVERSE.*

SO I FELL INTO *ETERNAL SLEEP.*

SINCE THEN, *THROUGH MY DREAMS...*

...I *LIVE THE LIVES* OF A NEW *KIND* OF CREATURE. THE *HUMAN KIND.*

CREATURES GROWN ISOLATED FROM THEIR SOURCE BUT, LIKE THE DRAGON AND ME, *GIFTED* WITH THE POWER OF *CREATION* AND *DESTRUCTION.*

AND MY BROTHER COULD NOT *ACCEPT* THAT.

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DESIGN *A PRISON* FOR HIM. A SINGLE *MORTAL SOUL* FROM WHICH HE COULD *NEVER* ESCAPE.

YOUR SOUL.

THROUGH COUNTLESS MILLENNIA MY BROTHER *INFILTRATED* MY DREAMS.

MOVING FROM SOUL TO SOUL AND *INFLUENCING* THEM TO PERFORM THE *MOST TERRIBLE* DEEDS.

MY NIGHTMARES.

THUS HE BECAME BOUND TO THE *ETERNAL CYCLE* OF *LIFE* AND *DEATH* THAT ALL LIVING THINGS MUST ENDURE.

BUT KITSUNE *NEVER* LOST TRACK OF HER FATHER'S LOCATION. AND SHE HAD A *PLAN.*

KITSUNE'S MAGIC CAN VERY WELL *BEND* THE MATTER, BUT TO BEND *YOUR SPIRIT,* SHE NEEDED *SOMETHING ELSE.*

SHE NEEDED YOUR TRUST. YOUR *LOVE.*

AND SO, SHE MADE *HER CHOICE* AND THAT CAME WITH A *COST* FOR HER.

THE SAME GOES TO YOU.
SHE... LOVED ME?
I LIVE THROUGH YOU, OROKU SAKI. ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE...
...YOU ALREADY HAVE THE ANSWERS.
WHAT DOES YOUR HEART TELL YOU?
THAT I MUST HOLD MY DESTINY IN MY OWN HANDS.
AND RENOUNCE EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I WAS.
THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER.
BA-BOOM

art by KEVIN EASTMAN
colors by FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA

art by MATEUS SANTOLOUCO

SHREDDER IN HELL #5

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! ANOTHER STEP AND I'LL SHOOT!
AT EASE, SOLDIER!
THE WAR IS OVER, BUDDY. YOU CAN REST NOW.
BUT YOU'RE... JUST A KID?
NOT ANY KID, I TELL YA!
COME ON!
TIME TO BREATHE SOME FRESH AIR.
OH MY GOD...
...WE DID IT... WE FINALLY DID IT...
...WE DESTROYED THE EARTH...
RELAX, DOROTHY. YOU'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE.
I PRESENT TO YOU YOUR NEW HOME, THE UNDERWOR—
BADOOM
CRAP!

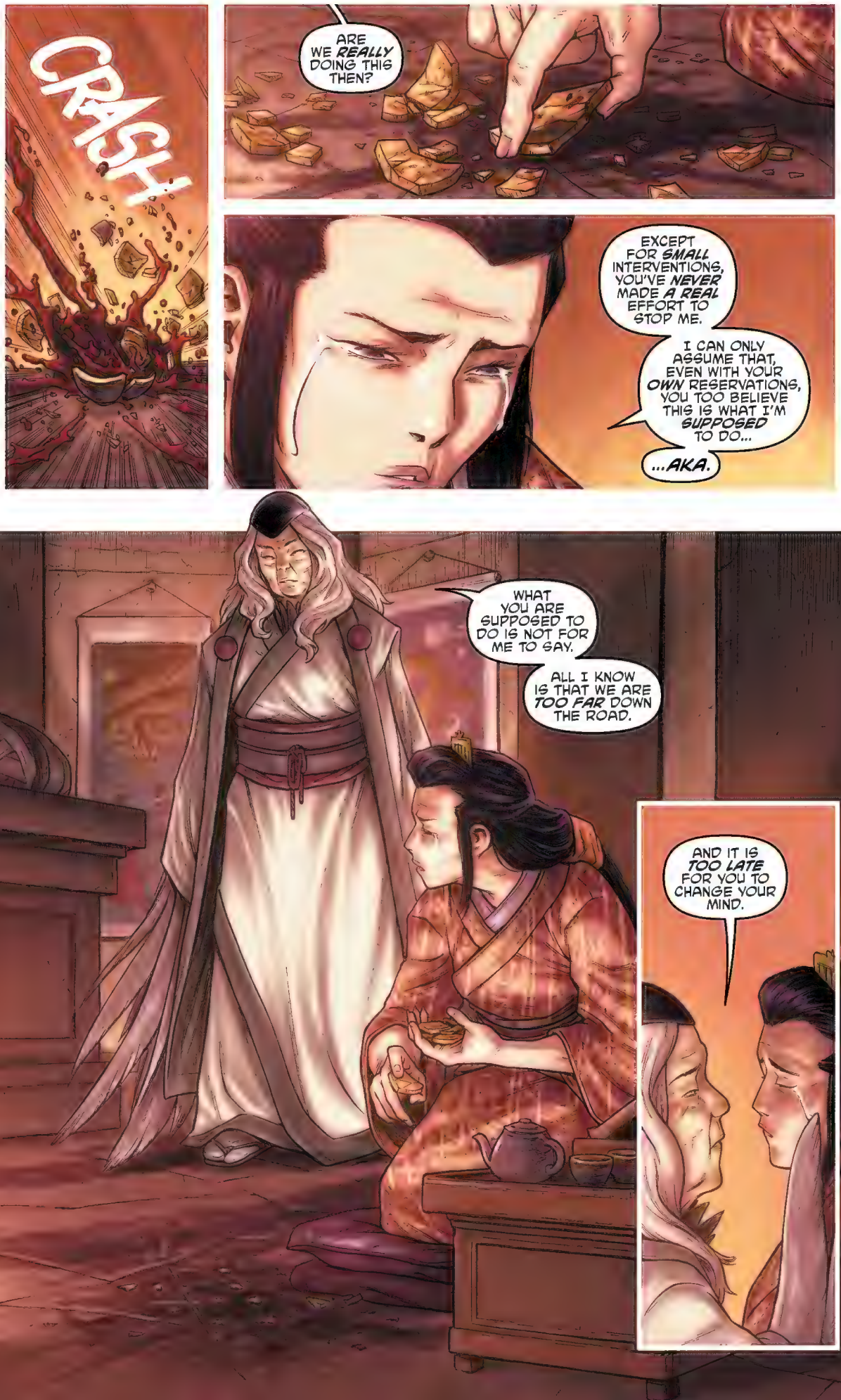
THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE END!
NOT THE END, NO.
"IT'S A BEGINNING."

FATHER, DO YOU HEAR ME?
ARE YOU STILL WITH ME?
MY SPELL IS ALMOST COMPLETE.
YOUR NEW REIGN APPROACHES.
BUT THE CLOSER I GET TO MY GOAL...
...THE HARDER IT IS FOR ME TO SEE IT THROUGH.
MY VISION IS CLOUDED IN DOUBT. AND THIS...

...IS BREAKING MY HEART.
WOOM
VOOSH
"I PLEAD TO YOU, MY LORD. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH I NEED TO SEE MY PLAN COME TO FRUITION."

SWHP
BECAUSE RIGHT NOW...
"MY SPIRIT IS *BENDING* IN DIRECTIONS I DID *NOT FORESEE*."
SWISH
YOU CAN FIGHT ALL YOU WANT, HUMAN.
IT'S *USELESS*.
I SEE *INSIDE* YOUR SOUL.
YOU ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR *ANOTHER SOLUTION*.
STILL *HOPING* YOUR DESTINY TO BE *GRANDIOSE*.

GAH!
SHRIP
"AND YOU ARE STILL HOLDING HER DEAR IN YOUR HEART."
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO AWAKE!
RARR!


CRASH
ARE WE *REALLY* DOING THIS THEN?
EXCEPT FOR *SMALL* INTERVENTIONS, YOU'VE *NEVER* MADE *A REAL* EFFORT TO STOP ME.
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT, EVEN WITH YOUR *OWN* RESERVATIONS, YOU TOO BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT I'M *SUPPOSED* TO DO...
...AKA.
WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO IS NOT FOR ME TO SAY.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT WE ARE *TOO FAR* DOWN THE ROAD.
AND IT IS *TOO LATE* FOR YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.

YOUR WARRIOR IS LUCID, I SEE.
HE IS TRYING TO AWAKE.
EVEN IF HE COULD ACCOMPLISH SUCH A HEROIC FEAT, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING HOLDING BACK THE OUTCOME OF THE TUG OF WAR FOR HIS SOUL.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DEAR SISTER? IT IS STRANGELY DELIGHTFUL TO REALIZE THAT YOU, FROM ALL THE DEMIGODS, SHOULD BE THE ONE TO BECOME MORE HUMAN LIKE.
YOUR POWERFUL MAGIC IS ABOUT TO MAKE A GOD OUT OF A MORTAL MAN.
BUT WHAT WILL THAT MAKE OUT OF YOU?
WHO WILL BE VICTORIOUS AND WHO WILL BE VANQUISHED?
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO CHOOSE...

"YOUR HEART? YOUR GOALS? WHAT WILL YOU SACRIFICE?"
IT IS TOO LATE TO DENY ME, HUMAN! I AM YOUR DESTINY!
THE HUMAN IS GONE. ONLY THE DREAM REMAINS.
YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT.
WHAM
BUT THIS DREAM OF YOURS IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT ME!
KAKRAK
YOU ARE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT ME!
RRRML
?

KRAKK
THE MEANING OF THIS DREAM IS MINE TO DECIDE.

HM-HM-HM! IS THAT SO?
ALLOW ME TO PROVE YOU WRONG.
YOU SEE, JUST AS THE DREAMER DOES, I TOO HOLD AN ECHO OF YOUR SOUL WITHIN ME.
YOU THINK YOU ARE AWAKENED BUT, FOR YOU AND TAKESHI TATSUO, THIS IS NOTHING MORE THEN A LUCID DREAM.
FWOOOM
THEN I SHALL AWAKE US BOTH!
RAAGH!
FWASH

GOOD THING WE'RE A SAFE DISTANCE.

OH GOD, OH GOD, OH GOD...

'CAUSE *THIS* IS A *TREAT* YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS.

KRPK

SWIP

KRSH

FWOOSH

KRONK

THOK

YOU *AMUSE* ME.

A MAN *DREAMING* TO BE A GOD...

...WITH *NO IDEA* OF WHAT *BEING A GOD* TRULY MEANS.

SLAM

IT'S *PATHETIC!*

SHINK

YOU *UNDER-ESTIMATE* MY WILL, *BEAST!*

KLANK

AND WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?!

I WILL DESTROY YOU!
RUMBLE
HO-HO-HO!
THERE HE IS... OROKU SAKI.
ALWAYS TRYING TO KILL HIS WAY TO SUCCESS.
BE...
THUD
...QUIET...
...DEMON!
SWAM
UGH!
KRAK

CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?
CAN'T YOU REALIZE YOU WERE NEVER A MERE HUMAN BEING?
KITSUNE'S MAGIC MADE YOU MORE THEN A MORTAL MAN, AND MY SPIRIT SHAPED YOUR SOUL INTO SOMETHING MORE EXTRAORDINARY THEN MY SISTER COULD EVER PREDICT.
LOOK AT YOU! EVEN ENLIGHTENED BY THE DREAMER, YOU ARE STILL CHOOSING THE WAYS OF DESTRUCTION TO RESOLVE YOUR QUERIES.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THEY SAID, WHAT THEY TRIED TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE.
YOU ARE THE DRAGON WARRIOR!
NOOO!
KRAKABOOM

IT IS LIKE I HAVE BEEN TELLING YOU, OROKU SAKI, I *AM* THE MEANING OF *YOUR EXISTENCE*.
ENOUGH!
YOU *THINK* YOU HOLD MEANING BUT YOU *DO NOT*, MY BROTHER!
YOU ARE *PAIN, SUFFERING* AND *ETERNAL HUNGER!* A *NIGHTMARE!*
AND THIS NIGHTMARE *ENDS HERE*.
YOU BLAME ME FOR THINGS THAT ARE *INHERENT* AND *INDISPENSABLE* TO LIFE, SISTER.
YES, THERE IS PAIN. THERE IS SUFFERING. BUT THERE IS ALSO JOY AND PLEASURE, VICTORY AND DEFEAT, POWER AND SUBMISSION. THERE IS *HATE*...
YES... OR YOU THINK MY PRISON HAS FORGOTTEN THE *PROMISE* HE MADE?
...AND THERE IS *LOVE!*

THIS ONE IS INTRIGUING, KITSUNE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
SACRIFICES... IN THE HELLISH REALM AND HERE AS WELL.
SO YOU'VE DECIDED.
I HAVE.
POWERS OF CREATION, MASTERS OF ALL. YOUR DAUGHTER SUMMONS THY STRENGTH. HEED MY CALL!
DIVINE BLOOD IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL A TASK THAT TRANSCENDS ALL MORAL.
ALLOW INTO THIS BLADE A FORCE SO STRONG, ABLE TO SUCK DRY THE LIFE OUT OF AN IMMORTAL!
I'M SORRY LITTLE SISTER.
I AM SORRY TOO, ELDER SISTER.
KIT... SUNE...
ARGH!
WHOOSH

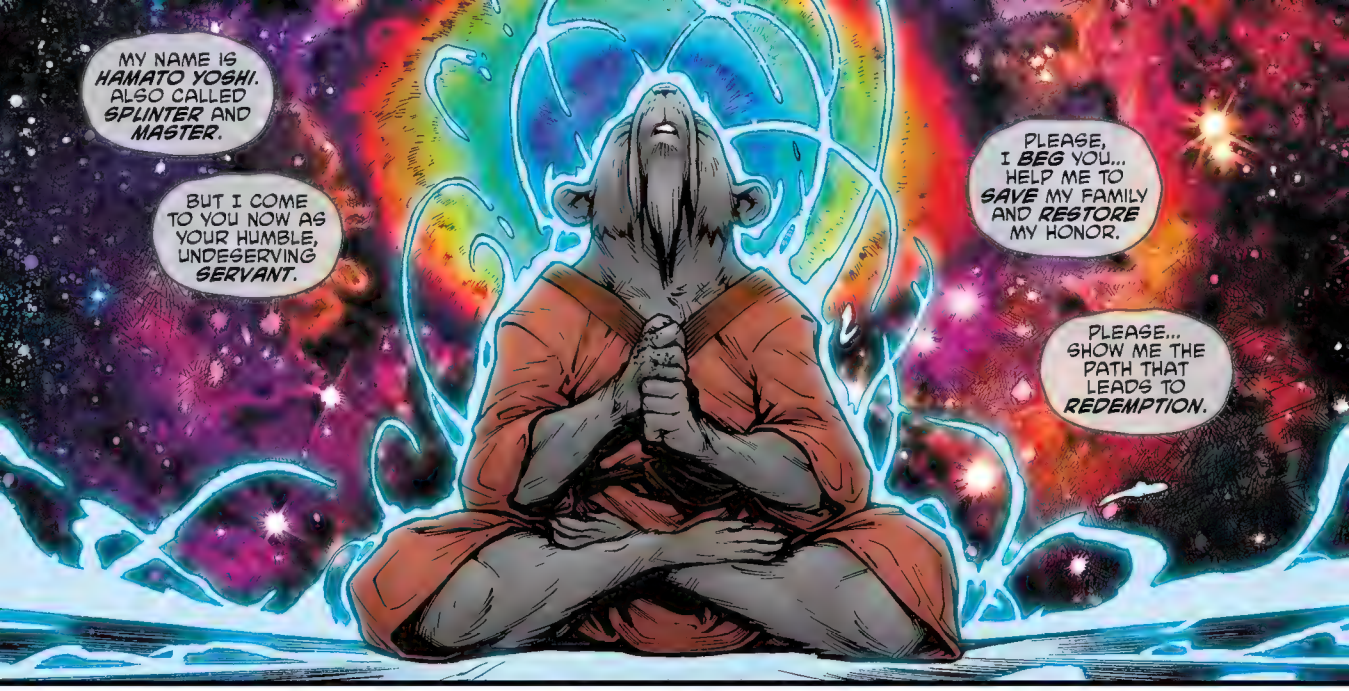
HE IS RIGHT. YOU ARE NO LONGER A MERE MORTAL.
WHAT HAS KITSUNE DONE TO ME?
EVEN I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE. PERHAPS SHE HAS GIVEN YOU SOMETHING THAT THE DRAGON WOULD NEVER ALLOW.
PERHAPS SHE GAVE YOU A CHOICE. AND EVEN IF SHE'S NOT AWARE...
SHE GAVE YOU LOVE.
SHE DID, DIDN'T SHE?
ONE THING I CAN GUARANTEE YOU.
NO ONE WANTS TO BE ALONE. NOT EVEN A GOD.
...
NOW GO, YOU'VE MADE A PROMISE, REMEMBER?
AND SINCE TIME DOESN'T FOLLOW THE SAME RULES IN THIS PLACE, THERE IS ONE SOUL WHO IS JUST NOW STARTING THE JOURNEY YOU ARE SO CLOSE TO FINISHING.
AND HE IS MORE THAN WILLING TO HELP YOU.
YOSHI?
SAKI!

I WASN'T SURE I WOULD FIND YOU IN THE ASTRAL PLANE...
I NEED YOUR HELP.
AND I NEED YOURS, BROTHER... AGAIN.
KITSUNE, SHE IS TRYING TO BRING A DEMON... A DRAGON TO EARTH.
AND TOGETHER, I THINK WE CAN PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.
YES, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT WILL NOT COME WITHOUT A HIGH COST.
WHATEVER IT TAKES. JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
BRING ME BACK...
...SHOW ME A WAY BACK TO HER.
I AM THE ONE AND ONLY WAY, HUMAN.
I SEE THAT NOW.
"REACH OUT TO ME, ALL MIGHTY DRAGON GOD.
"THUS HERE I DELIVER YOU THIS INDESTRUCTIBLE PHYSICAL BODY..."
IT'S ACCOMPLISHED, FATHER.
THE PATH FOR YOUR RETURN IS CEMENTED.
I CAN SEE THE PATH, KITSUNE...

"I DELIVER YOU...
YOU DID WELL, CHILD. I HAVE *RETURNED*.
"...MY LOVE...
BUT I AM NOT FREE YET!
"...MY *WARRIOR*.
THERE IS ONE LAST KEY REQUIRED TO OPEN THE GATES TO THIS REALM.
I LIVE TO SERVE YOU, *MY DRAGON LORD*.
BRING ME THE *TREASURE* TAKESHI TATSUO KEPT SAFE FOR ME.
BRING ME THE *KIRA NO KEN*.
AS YOU COMMAND, *FATHER*.
"...I DELIVER YOU...
"...MY *PHOENIX!*"

art by DAVE WACHTER

ISSUE #100


MY NAME IS HAMATO YOSHI. ALSO CALLED SPLINTER AND MASTER.
BUT I COME TO YOU NOW AS YOUR HUMBLE, UNDESERVING SERVANT.
PLEASE, I BEG YOU... HELP ME TO SAVE MY FAMILY AND RESTORE MY HONOR.
PLEASE... SHOW ME THE PATH THAT LEADS TO REDEMPTION.

TAKESHI TATSUO IS BACK...
AND HE GOT THE VESSEL!
ALL HAIL THE DRAGON GOD!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I AIM TO BRING THE DRAGON BACK.
I AIM TO BRING FATHER HOME.

SO, MISS O'NEIL—YOU HAVE DECIDED TO CHALLENGE ME.

"KITSUNE'S MAGIC CAN VERY WELL BEND THE MATTER. BUT TO BEND YOUR SPIRIT, SHE NEEDED SOMETHING ELSE. SHE NEEDED YOUR TRUST..."

"...SHE NEEDED YOUR LOVE."
I SEE NOW.

THE ROOF OF THE FOOT CLAN HEADQUARTERS.
ALL THOSE WITH EYES TO SEE, BEAR WITNESS, FOR TONIGHT... THE DRAGON RETURNS.
KITSUNE!
YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME.
I WANT IT BACK.
NO.
GO NO FARTHER, KARAI.
I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU.
OCHO, HAVE YOU GONE MAD? STEP ASIDE!
I... CANNOT.
IT IS TRUE.
AS BEARER OF THE KIRA NO KEN, I NOW CONTROL THE DEMON.
THE YOKAI IS BOUND TO ME UNTIL THE ACCURSED SWORD HAS BEEN RETURNED TO THE GODS.
AND THAT TIME HAS COME AT LONG LAST.

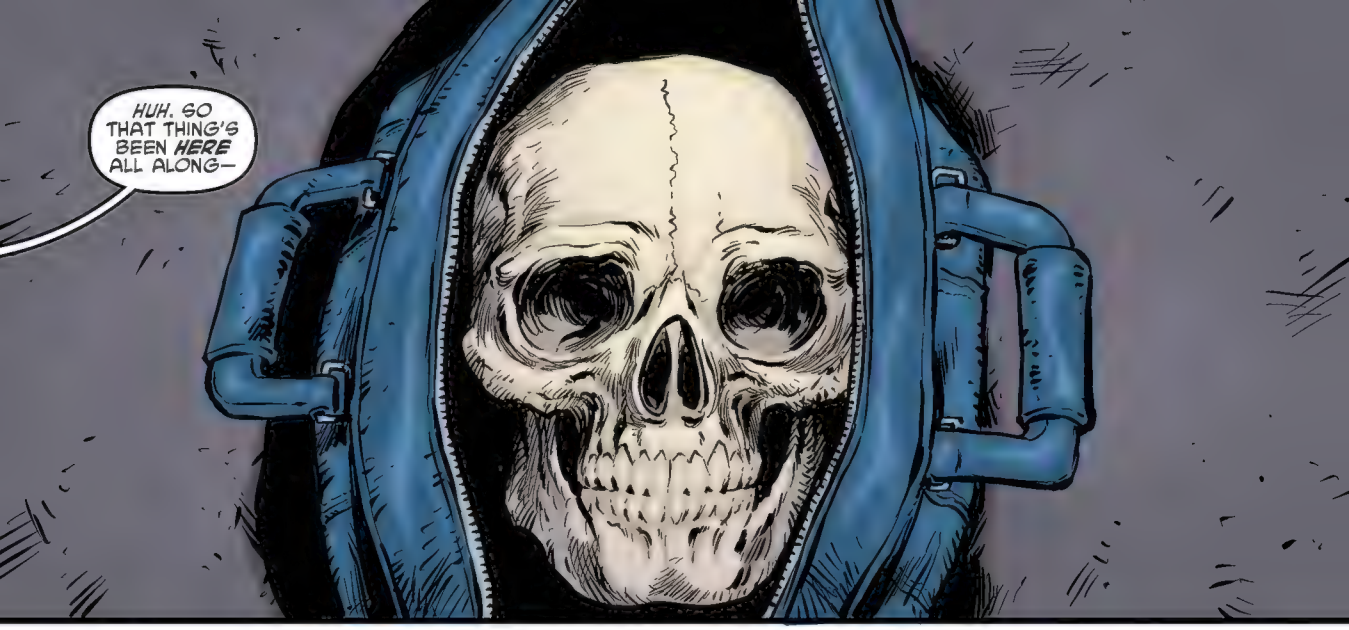
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE FOOT CLAN HQ.
SKREE!
SOMETHING'S WRONG!
DUCK!
GYAH!
FIGURE THAT ONE OUT ON YOUR OWN, DIDJA?
UFF!
GUESS DONNIE AIN'T THE ONLY GENIUS HERE.
NO, ANGEL— SOMETHING REALLY BAD. IT'S...
KITSUNE.
I HAVE TO GO!
GO? WHERE?!
WHEREVER IT IS, MUST BE IMPORTANT.
WHY ELSE WOULD SHE WANNA MISS ALL THIS FUN?
"I ADMIRE YOUR TENACITY..."

...BUT DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN BEAT ME, MUTANT? WITH YOUR SILLY SWORDS AND YOUR ANTIQUATED FIGHTING METHODS?
NO...
TAKE OFF THAT FANCY ROBOT-SUIT AND FIND OUT, BISHOP.
"...I'VE ALREADY MADE THE MISTAKE OF BEING LURED INTO COMBAT NOT OF MY CHOOSING BY YOU."
THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
"THIS IS THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN—"
—IT'S HARD TO TELL WHO THE BAD GUYS ARE!
TONK
NAH, JENNY...
GRAH!
...IT AIN'T THAT HARD.
KCHUP
DAMMIT, CASE.
PAST TIME YOU MADE A CHOICE—YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD...

KRAK
...OR THESE STINKIN' MUTANTS!
THE HELL, B? YOU LET THAT DUMMY SNEAK ONE IN ON YOU?
NOT SO DUMB NOW, ROCK. LOOK—
—THAT PRO WRESTLER GUY'S CONTROLLIN' HIM AGAIN.
I KNOW YOU WAS ALWAYS BETTER AT MATH, BUT PRETTY SURE THAT'S PRACTICALLY THREE AGAINST TWO.
WHAM
NOT NO MORE. WE GOT...
...ANCHOVY!
AAGH!
OH, MAN, THAT STUPID DINOSAUR COMES THROUGH AGAIN. WHAT'S HIS SECRET?
PROBABLY THAT WE HAVEN'T FED HIM THIS WEEK.
"YOU HUNGER FOR RETRIBUTION, I KNOW..."

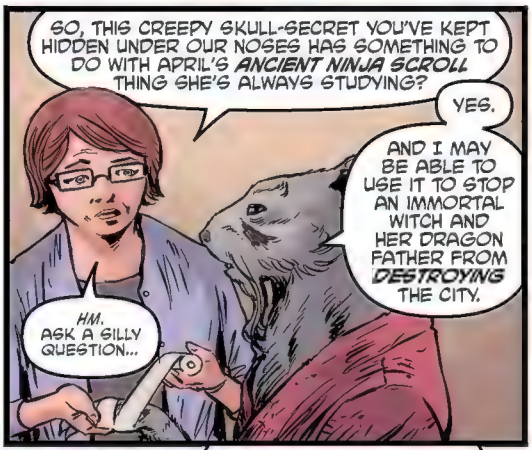
...AND SO, GODS ABOVE, I COME TO YOU WITH AN OFFERING! THE KIRA NO KEN—YOUR ONCE-BLESSED SWORD, CURSED THROUGH MANKIND'S FOLLY... MANKIND'S DISRESPECT!
I RETURN IT TO YOU NOW, THE SWORD OF HATE...
...SHEATHED WITHIN THE FLESH OF THE FOOT CLAN'S GREATEST WARRIOR.
MOVE, OCHO—I WON'T ALLOW THIS RITUAL TO BE COMPLETED.
NO.
YOU WOULD DEFY ME AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU?
FOR ME? YOU ENSLAVED ME UTILIZING THE POWER OF THAT DAMNED SWORD, KARAI...
"...NO DIFFERENT THAN YOUR WITCH GRANDMOTHER."
THIS BONDED VESSEL I HUMBLY OFFER TO YOU, GODS ABOVE, SWORD AND FLESH—A SACRIFICIAL RECOMPENSE FOR WHAT WAS STOLEN FROM YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR WHAT WAS LOST TO ME...
I HAVE DEFEATED YOU BEFORE, MONSTER.
YES. BUT THEN, YOU WERE NOT ALONE.
...LOST TO MY FAMILY.
WHAM
AND YOU STILL POSSESSED THE MAGIC SWORD!

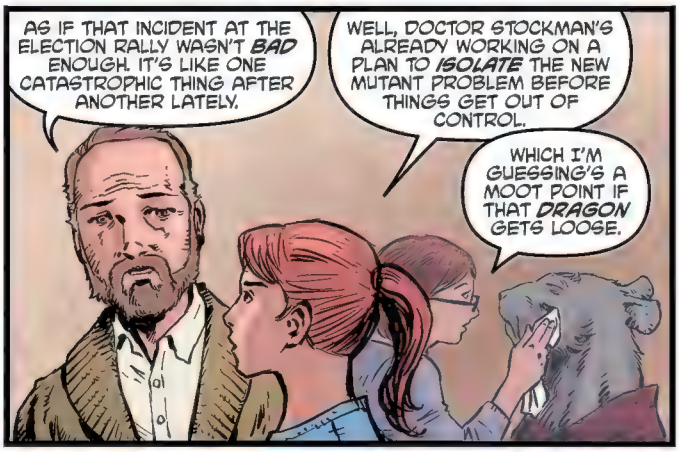
RETURN THE ALMIGHTY DRAGON LORD, FATHER TO WE...
...THE IMMORTAL DEMIGODS BELOW.
YOU WILL NOT PASS, KARAI.
WE SHALL SEE!
"FOOLISH CHILD."
SHE CLINGS DESPERATELY TO HER SO-CALLED REIGN, REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH—
"—THE FOOT CLAN IS NO MORE."
WHAP
GUH!
I ONLY WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN HERE COMPLETELY, OROKU SAKI MY LOVE, TO JOIN IN THIS, OUR GREATEST TRIUMPH.
ALAS, THE TRAITOR HAMATO YOSHI SAW FIT TO DENY ME THE GLORIOUS NEW ETERNITY I DESIRED TO SHARE WITH YOU, BELOVED. I HAVE YOUR BODY AND YOUR HEART, IT IS TRUE...
...BUT THAT CRAVEN IMPOSTER YET HIDES YOUR BEAUTIFUL HEAD.


HUH. SO THAT THING'S BEEN HERE ALL ALONG—

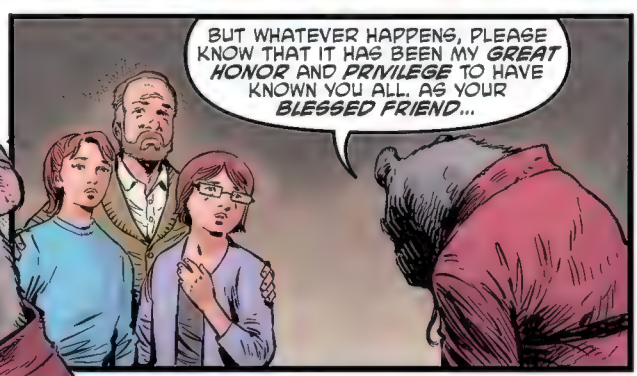
—I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED.
I JUST FIGURED IT WAS MORE OF CASEY'S SPORTS STUFF.
AS WAS INTENDED, MR. O'NEIL.
YEAH—MY IDEA, ACTUALLY, DAD. I ASKED CASEY TO BRING IT HERE AFTER I HELPED MASTER SPLINTER KEEP IT AWAY FROM KITSUNE.*
*See TMNT #60–B.C.

MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES FOR NOT SHARING THE TRUTH WITH YOU SOONER, BUT I ASSURE YOU OUR SILENCE WAS INTENDED SOLELY AS PROTECTION.
WELL, YOU DEFINITELY PROTECTED IT BETTER THAN YOU DID THAT HAND OF YOURS, SPLINTER.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING HERE WITH IT LOOKING LIKE THAT.


SO, THIS CREEPY SKULL-SECRET YOU'VE KEPT HIDDEN UNDER OUR NOSES HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH APRIL'S ANCIENT NINJA SCROLL THING SHE'S ALWAYS STUDYING?
YES.
AND I MAY BE ABLE TO USE IT TO STOP AN IMMORTAL WITCH AND HER DRAGON FATHER FROM DESTROYING THE CITY.
HM. ASK A SILLY QUESTION...


AS IF THAT INCIDENT AT THE ELECTION RALLY WASN'T BAD ENOUGH. IT'S LIKE ONE CATASTROPHIC THING AFTER ANOTHER LATELY.
WELL, DOCTOR STOCKMAN'S ALREADY WORKING ON A PLAN TO ISOLATE THE NEW MUTANT PROBLEM BEFORE THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL.
WHICH I'M GUESSING'S A MOOT POINT IF THAT DRAGON GETS LOOSE.

MOM'S RIGHT. I'M... I'M REALLY WORRIED, MASTER SPLINTER. WHAT IF THIS DOESN'T WORK? WHAT IF WE GOT IT ALL WRONG? WILL I...
...WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
MY BRAVE, DEAR CHILD—IF THERE IS ONE THING I HAVE LEARNED IN TWO LIFETIMES, IT IS THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.


BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS, PLEASE KNOW THAT IT HAS BEEN MY GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO HAVE KNOWN YOU ALL. AS YOUR BLESSED FRIEND...

"...AND YOUR FELLOW WARRIOR."
I TOLD YOU...
CHNK
SUCH SILLY WEAPONS.
MAYBE.
KLANG
SHWIIP
BUT AT LEAST ONE OF MINE STILL WORKS.
AH, THIS OLD TRICK AGAIN?
DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT ELSE I SAID?
I ALWAYS LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES!
KZAP
UNFF!

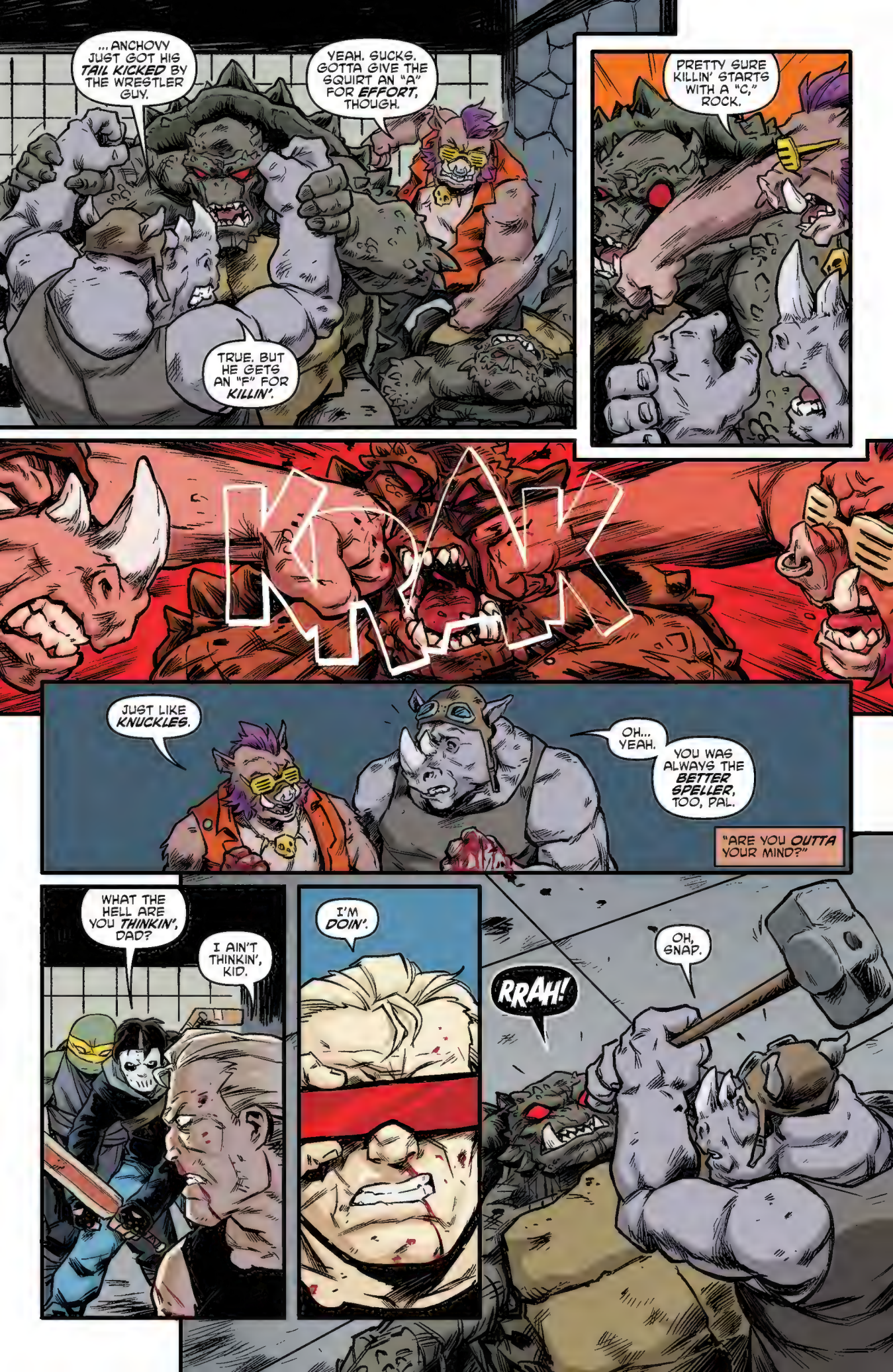
LESSONS TAUGHT TO ME BY MY FATHER.
HRNN...
ADAPT.
FWUD
OVERCOME.
KRAK
AND NEVER STOP...
NNNG...
...UPGRADING.
SHNK
CHOOM

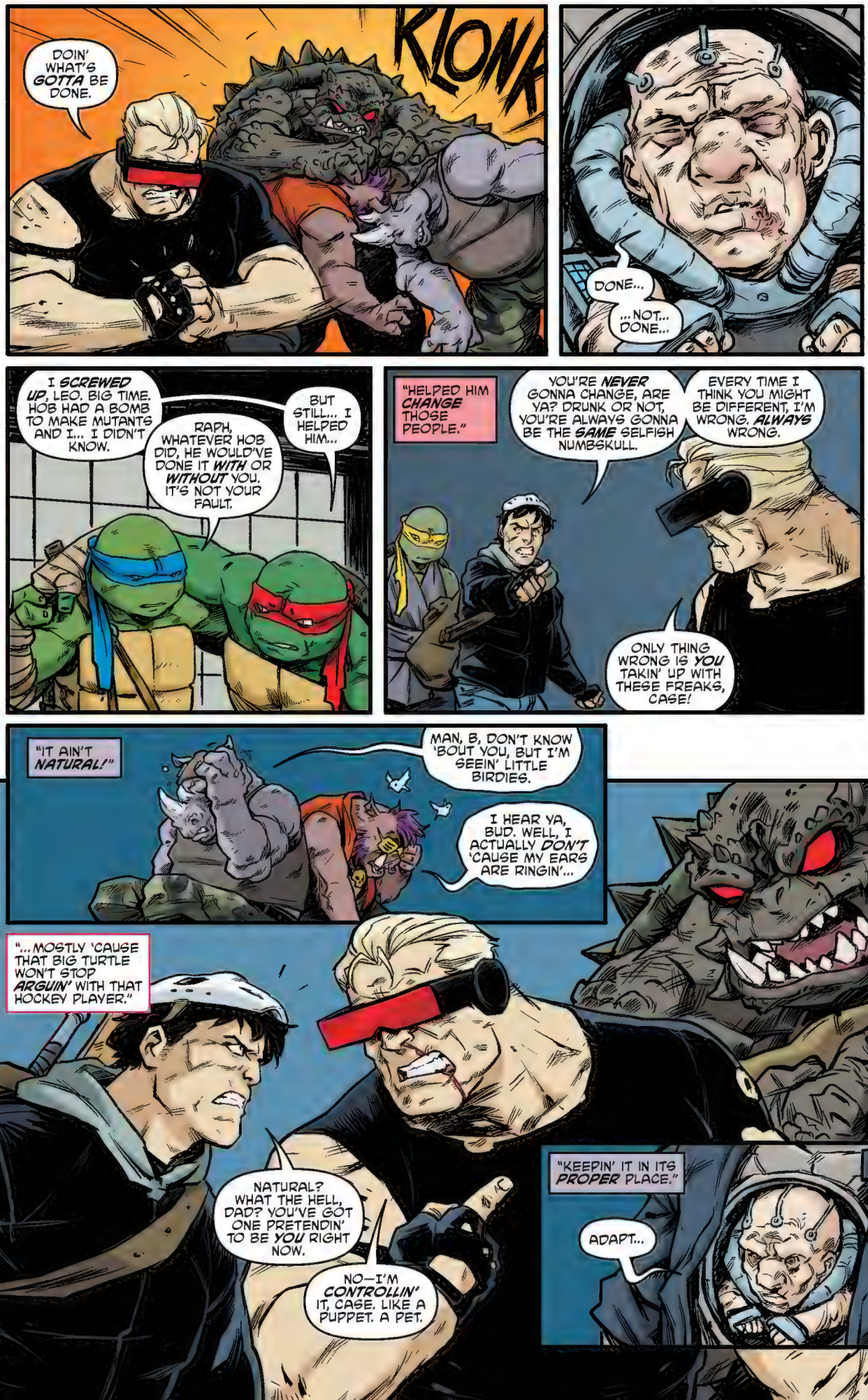
GAH!
NO! I'M NOT BEATEN!
THEN COME ON OUT.
YOU.
'CAUSE I AIN'T DONE YET.
RAPH?
I SAID...
...COME OUT!
CRAK
RAPH!

COME OUT!
CRAK
NO! STOP!
OR I'LL RIP YOU OUT!
MONSTER!
RAPH!
GFF!
THUMP
KILL YOU! KILL... BISHOP!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT ME, DAMMIT!
BISHOP! KILL BISHOP!
IT'S LEO, RAPH! BISHOP'S DONE!
MONSTER... MONSTER...

BISHOP'S DONE.
LE... LEO?
YEAH, RAPH. IT'S ME.
OH GOD OH GOD... I'M SO SORRY... I MESSED UP BAD, LEO...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LITTLE BRO.
...I'M SO SORRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'VE GOT YOU.

YOU ALL RIGHT?!
FWAP!
EPF
YEAH! ALL GOOD!
CHOK!
I THINK THAT'S THE LAST OF THE SOLDIERS.
KARAI'S NINJAS, TOO. NOW IT'S TIME FOR—
SQUEEEL
LOOK OUT!
WHAM!
STUPID... FREAKIN'... REPTILES.
AW, MAN, BOPSTER, CHECK IT OUT...


...ANCHOVY JUST GOT HIS TAIL KICKED BY THE WRESTLER GUY.
YEAH. SUCKS. GOTTA GIVE THE SQUIRT AN "A" FOR EFFORT, THOUGH.
TRUE. BUT HE GETS AN "F" FOR KILLIN'.
PRETTY SURE KILLIN' STARTS WITH A "C," ROCK.
KRAK
JUST LIKE KNUCKLES.
OH... YEAH.
YOU WAS ALWAYS THE BETTER SPELLER, TOO, PAL.
"ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR MIND?"
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKIN', DAD?
I AIN'T THINKIN', KID.
I'M DOIN'.
OH, SNAP.
RRAH!


DOIN' WHAT'S GOTTA BE DONE.
KLONK
DONE...
...NOT... DONE...
I SCREWED UP, LEO. BIG TIME. HOB HAD A BOMB TO MAKE MUTANTS AND I... I DIDN'T KNOW.
RAPH, WHATEVER HOB DID, HE WOULD'VE DONE IT WITH OR WITHOUT YOU. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
BUT STILL... I HELPED HIM...
"HELPED HIM CHANGE THOSE PEOPLE."
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA CHANGE, ARE YA? DRUNK OR NOT, YOU'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE THE SAME SELFISH NUMBSKULL.
EVERY TIME I THINK YOU MIGHT BE DIFFERENT, I'M WRONG. ALWAYS WRONG.
ONLY THING WRONG IS YOU TAKIN' UP WITH THESE FREAKS, CASE!
"IT AIN'T NATURAL!"
MAN, B, DON'T KNOW 'BOUT YOU, BUT I'M SEEIN' LITTLE BIRDIES.
I HEAR YA, BUD. WELL, I ACTUALLY DON'T 'CAUSE MY EARS ARE RINGIN'...
"...MOSTLY 'CAUSE THAT BIG TURTLE WON'T STOP ARGUIN' WITH THAT HOCKEY PLAYER."
NATURAL? WHAT THE HELL, DAD? YOU'VE GOT ONE PRETENDIN' TO BE YOU RIGHT NOW.
NO—I'M CONTROLLIN' IT, CASE. LIKE A PUPPET. A PET.
"KEEPIN' IT IN ITS PROPER PLACE."
ADAPT...

"...AND OVERCOME."
YOU'RE BEING TOO HARD ON YOURSELF, RAPH. YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY AFTER WHAT BISHOP DID TO YOU. IT'S A MIRACLE YOU HAVEN'T LOST IT BEFORE TODAY.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW. AND WHEN YOU DID, YOU STOPPED HELPING HOB. YOU GOT AWAY.
BUT HOB'S BOMB... AND THOSE POOR PEOPLE...
YOU'RE SO STRONG... THE STRONGEST OF US ALL. AND THAT'S WHY I PUSH YOU SO HARD, MAN—BECAUSE I KNOW YOU CAN TAKE IT. BECAUSE I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO COME THROUGH IN THE END, NO MATTER WHAT.
THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS COME BACK FROM THAT DARK EDGE, BACK TO YOUR FAMILY THAT LOVES YOU...
"...BACK WHERE YOU BELONG."
YO, ROCK— ANCHOVY'S BACK.
GLAD YOU DIDN'T CROAK, LITTLE GUY, BUT I SURE WISH THAT WRESTLER WOULD—
"—JERK WON'T SHUT HIS YAP."
THESE THINGS AIN'T HUMAN, CASEY! THEY AIN'T EVEN ANIMALS!
THEY AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT DIRTY, STINKIN' MONSTERS!
I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, MR. JONES.
THEY'RE ABOMINATIONS, ONE AND ALL, AND THEY MUST BE STOPPED.
IT'S LIKE MY FATHER ALWAYS USED TO SAY...
KZAP!
GUH!
...THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A MONSTROSITY.

CRAP! BISHOP.
FREAKIN' SCUM'S HARDER TO TAKE OUT THAN A COCKROACH.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
...SO'S OUR FAMILY.
LOOK ALIVE, MR. JONES. THE BATTLE RAGES ON.
BUT...
NO TIME FOR HESITATION.
ONLY FIGHTING!
"GET UP, DAMMIT..."
...DON'T YOU DIE ON ME.
I'M NOT... DYING, CASEY. JUST CATCHING... MY BREATH.
OH, MAN, JENNY... YOU GOTTA STOP SCARIN' ME LIKE THAT.

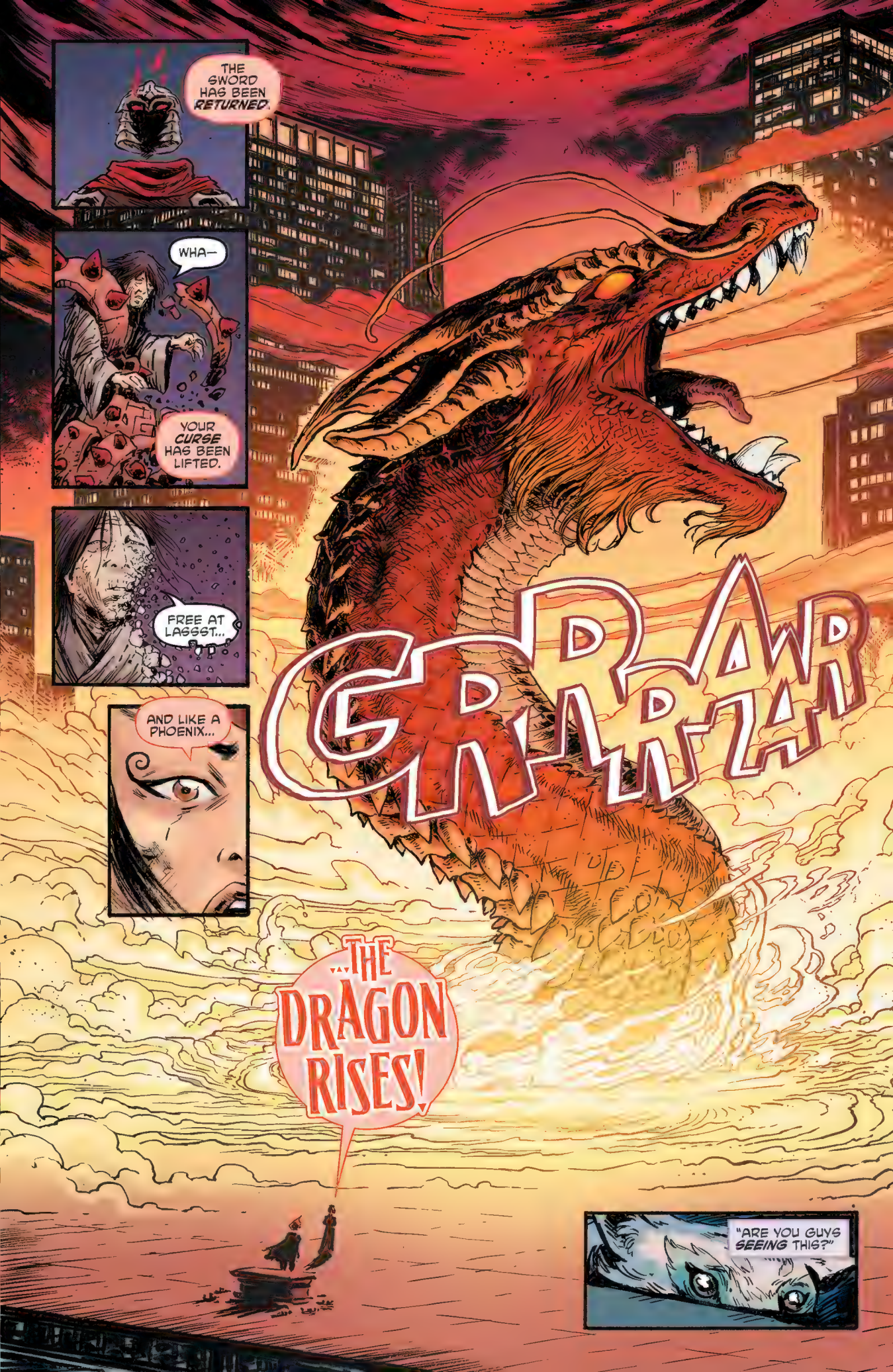
SHNK
I'M DONE LETTING YOU HURT MY FAMILY!
FAMILY?
WHAT DO YOU DISGUSTING THINGS KNOW OF FAMILY?
KRK!
FAMILY IS A FATHER WHO LOVES AND ACCEPTS HIS SON NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS SAY.
NOT A LOWLY RAT WHO ABANDONS HIS ONLY CHILDREN...
"...LEAVING THEM TO PITIFUL DEATHS."
I'M GONNA KILL YOU FOR GOOD, FREAK.
HRGGK...
WRONG, DAD.
YOU AIN'T KILLIN' NO ONE!
FWAK!
CAN'T YOU SEE IT? THE ONLY ONE ACTIN' LIKE AN ANIMAL IS YOU.
DAMMIT, I AIN'T NO ANIMAL, CASE. I'M DOIN' THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
AND YOU GOTTA STOP GETTIN' IN MY WAY AND LET ME DO IT.
YES...

THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN THESE MONSTERS IS A HUMAN TRAITOR.
...HE DOES.
UNFAITHFUL TO HIS OWN KIND...
...AND SHAMEFULLY DISLOYAL TO HIS OWN FATHER.
NO.
KRAP!
AAGH!
DAD!
OH, NO!
FOOL.
NO, WAIT.
I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO SEE YOUR VISION THROUGH, DAD.
HRNN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SON?
SEEING YOUR VISION THROUGH, DAD.
NO.

GRAAH!
NO!
KAP!
SPLICH
S-SLASH?
BAD... LITTLE MAN...
CASEY... YOU THERE...?
I'M HERE, POP. RIGHT HERE.
YOU... YOU HURT, SON?
NO, YOU SAVED ME, POP... I'M OKAY. WE'RE ALL OKAY.
DON'T CARE ABOUT OTHERS...
...JUST YOU.
"DEATH IS AN ENDING..."

...AND A BEGINNING.
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR BOTH, BELOVED?
OLD DEATH. NEW LIFE.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT.
PAY?
ALL I'VE EVER DONE IS PAY!
SMSH
LOOK YOU NOW, TO THE SKIES. TO THE BENEVOLENT GODS ABOVE.
THE KIRO NO KEN BURNS WITHIN YOU. THE SWORD OF HATE.
SEND IT HOME!
SHZZK

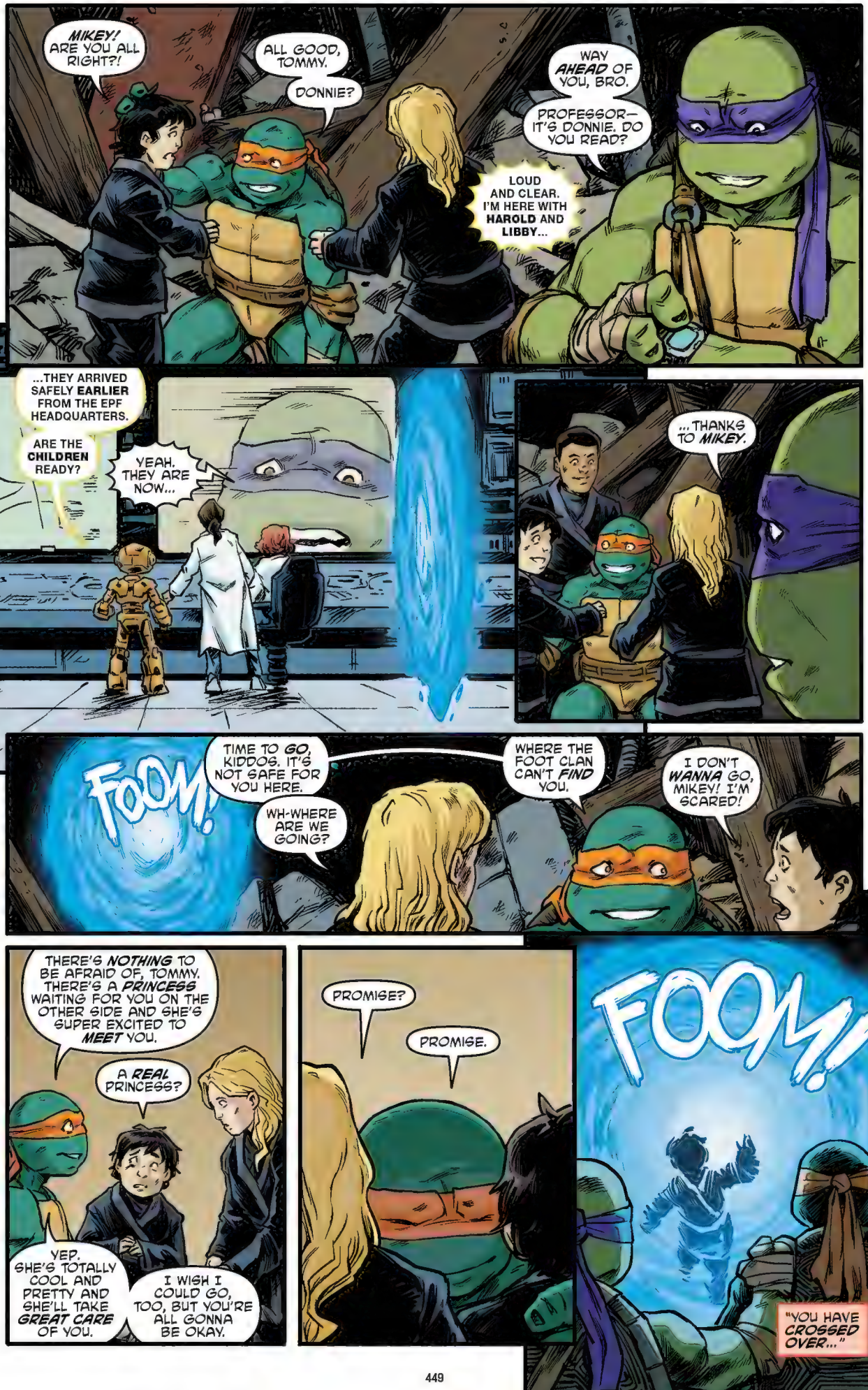
HOW—
OCHO. NOW.
KLUD
LAY HER HERE.
AND REJOICE, DEMON...
...YOUR IMPRISONMENT IS AT AN END.


THE SWORD HAS BEEN RETURNED.
WHA—
YOUR CURSE HAS BEEN LIFTED.
FREE AT LASSST...
AND LIKE A PHOENIX...
GRRAWRRR
...THE DRAGON RISES!
"ARE YOU GUYS SEEING THIS?"

IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS.
OUR BOMB?
YOUR BOMB, YOU MEAN.
AND, NO, NOT THAT—
—IT'S SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER.
ISN'T THAT THE FOOT COMPOUND?
HEH. YEAH. LOOKS LIKE SPLINTER'S CREW'S ROYALLY SCREWED THIS TIME.
WAIT—WE'RE GONNA HELP THEM, RIGHT?
YOU KIDDIN'? WE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN RISKIN' OUR NECKS BAILIN' OUT THOSE IDIOT NINJAS AGAIN.
LIKE TRAININ' OUR NEW RECRUITS.
NEW RECRUITS?
"THOSE POOR PEOPLE YOU MUTATED AGAINST THEIR WILL?"
LISTEN UP, NEW FRIENDS! ON THE MENU TONIGHT, JUST FOR YOU, PIGEON PETE'S BESTEST SPECIALTIES—WORM GOULASH AND BOARD GAMES!
JUST PLEASE DON'T EAT THE CHECKERS.
CHECKERS
HOB, THIS PLACE IS SERIOUSLY LACKING IN ADULTS. AND YOUR TWISTED IDEA OF WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG ALWAYS GETS PEOPLE HURT.
YEAH. THEM. WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO LEAVE 'EM WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME, WOULD IT?
WHAT'S RIGHT IS TAKIN' CARE OF THE MUTANIMALS FIRST, SALLY. NOT HELPIN' THE RAT'S JUST SMART BUSINESS. IT AIN'T NOTHIN' PERSONAL.
WELL... MAYBE JUST A LITTLE PERSONAL.
"YOUR SUFFERING WILL LAST FOREVER—"

—BEFORE THIS NIGHT'S OVER, I'LL FORCE YOU TO WATCH AS I GORGE MYSELF ON YOUNG FLESH, TURTLE!
SORRY, KOYA. THAT'S TOTALLY NOT—
WHAT THE—
OH...
MIKEY?
NO!
KRRSSH
HOLY CRAP, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU OKAY?
YEAH KOFF I THINK SO.
BETTER THAN THEM, AT LEAST.
NNNGG...
UH, GUYS...

MIKEY!
...A LITTLE... NNF... HELP... PLEASE.
COME ON, KIDS!
HRRGG... HURRY...
ALL CLEAR!
CLOSE YOUR EYES, MIKEY!
SHMP
VOM
OH... THANK GOD.


MIKEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
ALL GOOD, TOMMY.
DONNIE?
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, BRO.
PROFESSOR— IT'S DONNIE. DO YOU READ?
LOUD AND CLEAR. I'M HERE WITH HAROLD AND LIBBY...
...THEY ARRIVED SAFELY EARLIER FROM THE EPF HEADQUARTERS.
ARE THE CHILDREN READY?
YEAH. THEY ARE NOW...
...THANKS TO MIKEY.
FOOM!
TIME TO GO, KIDDOS. IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU HERE.
WH-WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHERE THE FOOT CLAN CAN'T FIND YOU.
I DON'T WANNA GO, MIKEY! I'M SCARED!
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, TOMMY. THERE'S A PRINCESS WAITING FOR YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE AND SHE'S SUPER EXCITED TO MEET YOU.
A REAL PRINCESS?
YEP. SHE'S TOTALLY COOL AND PRETTY AND SHE'LL TAKE GREAT CARE OF YOU.
I WISH I COULD GO, TOO, BUT YOU'RE ALL GONNA BE OKAY.
PROMISE?
PROMISE.
FOOM!
"YOU HAVE CROSSED OVER..."

GRRAARRR
"...AND YOUR BIRTHING PAINS ARE NEARLY AT AN END."
ONE FINAL STEP IS ALL THAT REMAINS TO UNBIND YOU FROM THE NETHERWORLD, FATHER.
JUST AS MY SISTER'S DIVINE SACRIFICIAL BLOOD WAS NECESSARY TO CEMENT YOUR PATH HOME...*
...IT IS MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S DRAGON BLOOD THAT WILL FULLY OPEN THE GATES AND COMPLETE YOUR GLORIOUS HOMECOMING.
*See TMNT: Shredder in Hell #5 – B.C.
IT IS AS I TOLD YOU, CHILD—WE ALL PLAY A PART IN THIS GAME...
...EVEN YOU!
CLANK
HOW—
—YOU!
YEP.
ME!
FWAP
NNF!

CRACK
:HFF: :HFF: :HFF:
ALOPEX!
I WILL HAVE YOUR HIDE FOR THIS TREACHERY!
DESTROY THE DISOBEDIENT CUR AND BRING KARAI TO ME.
KILL THE MONGREL.
FLAY HER ALIVE.
"WELL, NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS..."
...BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE WITH ME, KARAI.
AT LEAST I WON'T DIE ALONE.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE, CHILD...

...AND NONE OF YOU WILL DIE TONIGHT IF I CAN HELP IT.
MY SONS...
...HEAR ME NOW.
SENSEI?
HE IN YOUR HEAD, TOO?
MASTER SPLINTER?
IS THAT—
FATHER.
I AM HERE, MY SONS, ABOVE YOU ON THE ROOFTOP. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED...
...THE DRAGON IS RISING.
GUYS, WE GOTTA GO. THERE'S BIG TROUBLE ON THE ROOF.
OF COURSE IT'S ON THE STINKIN' ROOF.
CASEY, IF YOU NEED TO STAY HERE, WE—
NO... IT'S OKAY, RAPH. I'M GOOD.
LOOK AT 'EM BOLT.
YEAH, GUESS THEY HAD THEIR FILL OF THE ROCK BOPSTER, HUH?
YEP, WITH A HEFTY SIDE OF ANCHOVY.

"SO, OKAY..."
...YOU WEREN'T JOKIN' ABOUT THAT DRAGON.
NOW WE KNOW WHY THOSE BEAMS GAVE OUT.
THERE'S MASTER SPLINTER AND ALOPEX!
WAITASEC. IS THAT...
"...SHREDDER?!"
BUT I THOUGHT HE—
LOST HIS HEAD? HE DID.
SO HOW THE HECK IS HE HERE?
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. ALL THAT MATTERS IS STOPPING HIM.
YEAH. WE TOOK DOWN THAT SPIKED CLOWN BEFORE.
WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!
"SO THE RAT'S IMPS JOIN THE BATTLE..."

...GOOD. LET THEM FOOLISHLY PERISH ALONGSIDE THEIR FAILED MASTER—
"—I WILL ATTEND TO MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS."
WHA...?
FATHER! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
KITSUNE IS ATTEMPTING TO RAISE THE DRAGON, MY SON, USING OROKU SAKI AS HER ARCANE VESSEL. WE MUST STOP HER.
HOW?!
THAT DUTY FALLS TO ME.
YOURS IS TO HOLD OFF THESE SOULLESS DEMONS AND THEIR IMPOSTER GENERAL SO I CAN SEND THEM ALL...
...HOME!
GYAAH!
YOU HEARD 'IM!
KNOCK THESE FREAKS BACK TO HELL!
QUICK QUESTION—
"—ANYONE ELSE FEELING SOME SERIOUS DEJA VU RIGHT NOW?"

NOW, CHILD. SHALL WE FINISH?
GRAARR!
UFF!
FILTHY CUR! ALWAYS IN THE WAY!
YIPP!
NOT HARD TO BE IN THE WAY WHEN I KNOW... NNF... WHERE TO GO.
I KICKED YOU OUT OF MY HEAD, WITCH... HRG... BUT I STILL KNOW HOW YOUR TWISTED MIND WORKS.
PERHAPS. BUT YOUR DAYS OF BETRAYAL ARE DONE, MONGREL.
NO, KITSUNE...
...YOU ARE DONE!
HRRGK!
RIDICULOUS GIRL.
MY ULTIMATE FATE HAS NEVER BEEN YOURS TO DECIDE.
YOUR FATE, HOWEVER...
...HAS ALWAYS BEEN SEALED IN YOUR OWN BLOOD.

MAN, THESE DAMN THINGS JUST KEEP *COMIN'!*

YEAH! WHERE'S ZOMBIE SHREDDER *GETTING* 'EM ALL FROM?!

AND DON'T FORGET OUR LITTLE *DRAGON* PROBLEM!

JUST KEEP FIGHTING! IT'S LIKE ME AGAINST THE *EPF* BEFORE—

"—WE'RE THE *DISTRACTION!*"

YOSHI?

YES, SAKI... I AM HERE. I HAVE COME TO KEEP MY *PROMISE* TO YOU...

...TO MY *BELOVED WIFE*...

...AND TO *ALL* THE CHILDREN IN MY CHARGE.

FREAKIN' DEMONS AND DRAGONS! IT'S LIKE THE *ULTIMATE NERD DREAM!*

'CEPT THESE CHUMPS AIN'T *MAKE-BELIEVE* IN SOMEONE'S MOM'S BASEMENT!

THAT'S OKAY...

"...WE'RE NOT EXACTLY USING *DICE* AS WEAPONS, EITHER."

SUCH A GAMBLE, TO COME HERE. TO THIS *PERILOUS REALM*, YOSHI. WHY?

TO BRING YOU *HOME*, MY BROTHER.

BUT KITSUNE—

IS MISGUIDED AND CONFUSED. THE ONLY THING *GREATER* THAN HER ARCANE POWERS IS HER UTTER LONELINESS...

"...SHE MISTAKENLY SEEKS FOR SOMETHING IN HER DRAGON SIRE THAT SHE *ALREADY* POSSESSED IN YOU."

YOUR *LOVE*, SAKI.

YES...

"...AND EVEN NOW SHE *HESITATES* AS REGRET FINDS HER."

I CAN BRING YOU BACK, SAKI. TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP THE DRAGON. IF ONLY YOU ARE *WILLING*. BUT WE MUST ACT NOW.

BUT... THE *BALANCE*, YOSHI. IT MUST BE MAINTAINED. ALWAYS.

ONE MUST *FALL*...

"...FOR THE OTHER TO *RISE*."

NO... KARAI...

INDEED. A LIFE FOR A LIFE—THERE IS *NO OTHER* WAY.

BUT, HOW... HOW CAN I *DESERVE* THIS? SO MANY LIVES I'VE DESTROYED... AND ALL FOR NOTHING.

I THINK OF THIS AS AN *OPPORTUNITY*, OROKU SAKI.

"YES. A CHANCE... TO *SAVE THE WORLD*."

VERY WELL. I WILL *TRY*, MY BROTHER. FOR *YOU*.

NO, SAKI. YOU WILL *SUCCEED*...

...FOR *ALL* OF US.

MY CHILDREN, WE HAVE *LITTLE TIME*...

...YOU MUST *LISTEN* NOW.

WHAT THE—

YOU *HEARIN'* THAT?

MASTER SPLINTER!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I HAVE *FAILED* YOU.

BY ALLOWING MY OWN DOUBTS AND FEARS TO RULE MY ACTIONS, I HAVE *TAINTED* MY HONOR...

...AS WELL AS THE LOVING TRUST THAT IS THE VERY *ESSENCE* OF OUR FAMILY.

LEO?

AND FAMILY IS WHAT YOU *ARE* TO ME—

—*EACH* AND *EVERY ONE*.

I LOVE YOU *ALL*.

AND I KNOW NOW, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HAVE WISHED OTHERWISE, THERE WILL *ALWAYS* BE DANGERS FOR OUR FAMILY TO FACE.

JUST AS I KNOW, LIKE A CHAIN, A FAMILY IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS *WEAKEST* LINK.

AND FOR FAR TOO LONG, *I* HAVE BEEN THE WEAK LINK.

THAT *ENDS* HERE AND NOW.

FAREWELL, MY STRONG, PRECIOUS CHILDREN. MY PRIDE AND FAITH IN YOU KNOWS *NO* BOUNDS.

I KNOW IN MY HEART, YOU WILL *PERSEVERE*.

THIS WAS MY OPPORTUNITY TO *CORRECT* MY WRONGS.

THE NEXT WILL BE *YOURS*, OROKU SAKI.

"YOU ARE A *HOLLOW VESSEL* NO MORE."

BELOVED?

GRRAARRR

SHZZK

EVENTUALLY, THE TEMPEST SUBSIDES.
IS EVERYONE *KOFF* IS EVERYONE OKAY?
KOFF *KOFF*
WE'RE GOOD, LEO. WHAT HAPPENED?
AND WHAT BEGAN WITH A FEROCIOUS ROAR...

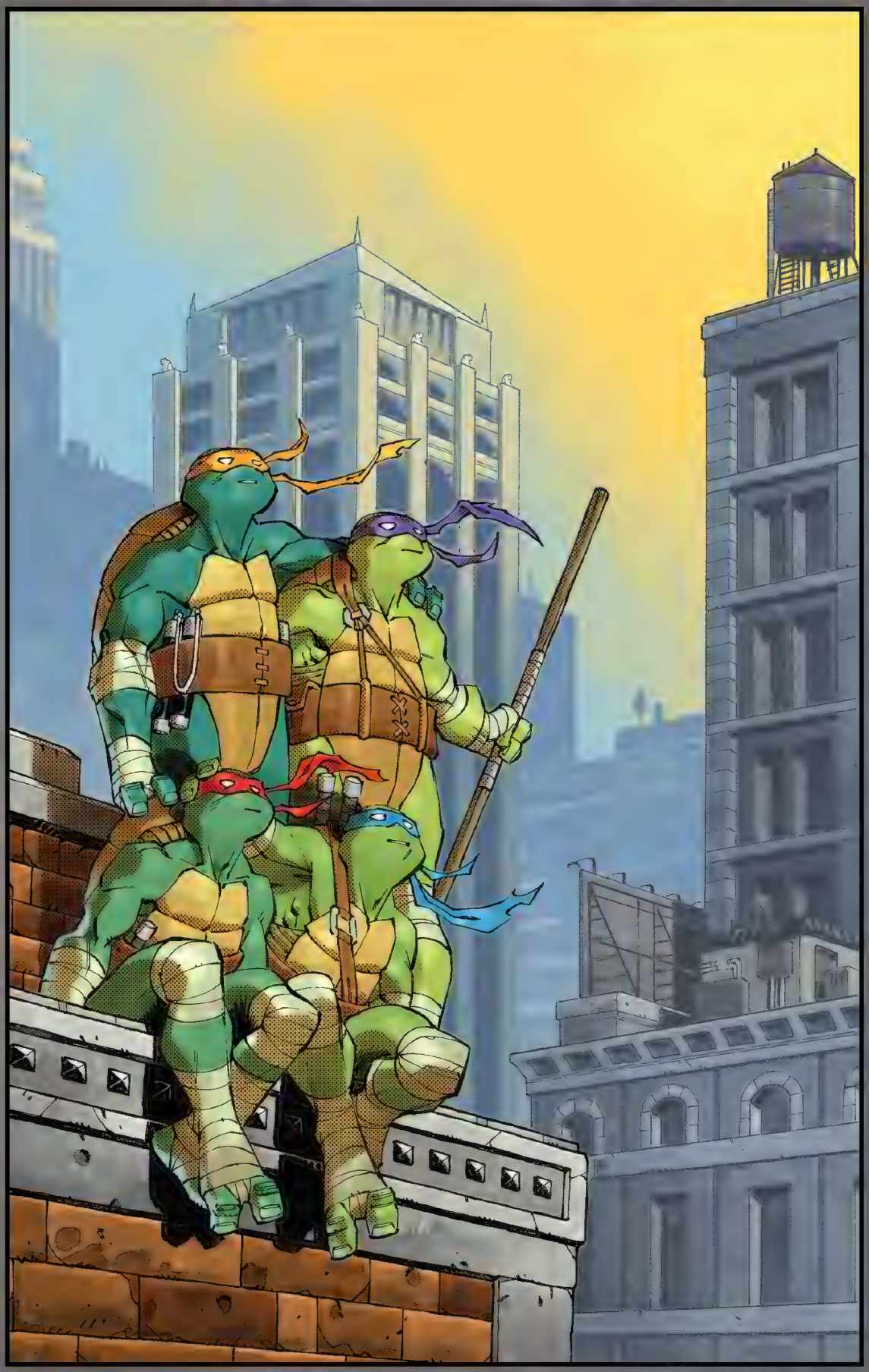
I THINK WE WON.
WAIT– WHERE'S FATHER?
HE IS NO LONGER HERE, CHILD.
...ENDS IN UNCERTAIN SILENCE.
OH... NO.
IT IS SIMPLY THE CALM BEFORE THE NEXT STORM.
HAMATO YOSHI HAS RETURNED TO THE DREAM.
HE DIED HONORABLY. THROUGH ME, HE CAST DOWN THE DRAGON AND RESTORED THE COSMIC BALANCE. ABOVE AND BELOW. LIGHT AND DARK.
LIFE AND DEATH.
FATHER...
HIS SACRIFICE SAVED YOU, YOUNG MASTER... YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR FRIENDS–
–SAVED US ALL.
WE ARE FOREVER IN HIS DEBT.
BELOVED, I ONLY–
STOP, KITSUNE. IT MATTERS NOT.
I HAVE FOUND YOU AGAIN AS I PROMISED.
YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE.

"AND WITH A KNIGHT FOR A KNIGHT..."
...THE RAT KING TAKES THE FOX QUEEN.
I DO SO *LOVE* THIS GAME, MY PETS.
"AND SO, BALANCE IS *RESTORED*. THE DRAGON WARRIOR AND HIS BRIDE ARE *REUNITED*..."
...AND YOU ARE *RETURNED* TO ME, MY BELOVED YOSHI.
SHEN, IS IT TRUE? IS THIS... *REAL?*
AS REAL AS ANY *DREAM* CAN BE, MY HUSBAND.
BUT... HOW? HOW DO I *DESERVE* THIS?
BECAUSE IN THE END, YOU KEPT YOUR *SACRED PROMISE* TO ME, YOSHI. YOU *PROTECTED* OUR CHILDREN.
YOU BANISHED *DARKNESS* AND YOU FOUND THE *LIGHT*.
YOU FOUND *LOVE*.
AND, AT LONG LAST, WE CAN TRULY *BEGIN*.

EPILOGUE.
PLANET NEUTRINO.
SMADA CITY. THE ROYAL PALACE.
"WELL, THE KIDS SURE SEEM TO BE *ADJUSTING* WELL—"
—THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THE *RESILIENCY* OF YOUTH, I SUPPOSE.
MEH.
IT CERTAINLY IS A **GOOD THING** THAT THEY'VE BECOME COMFORTABLE HERE SO QUICKLY, LIBBY.
"SENDING ANY OF YOU BACK TO EARTH WOULD BE A **DANGEROUS PROPOSITION** AT THE MOMENT."
I WAS RECENTLY TASKED BY KING ZENTER WITH ARCHIVING ALL DATA PERTAINING TO THE TRIAL OF **GENERAL KRANG**. WITNESS TESTIMONY, EVIDENCE RECORDS, ETCETERA.
IT WAS DURING THIS PROCESS THAT I MADE A MOST **DISTURBING DISCOVERY** ABOUT THE VERY NATURE OF THE **UTROMS** THEMSELVES AND HOW THEY CAME TO DOMINATE THEIR PLANET.
"AS IT TURNS OUT, THE UTROMS ARE **PARASITIC ORGANISMS**...
"...AND LIKE THE CHILDREN WE'VE BROUGHT HERE, THEY, TOO, ARE **EXTREMELY RESILIENT**."

Fin.

art by FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II



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IT'S ALL BEEN LEADING UP TO THIS! A MASSIVE SHOWDOWN ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY! AS NEW YORK GETS TORN APART BY DIFFERENT FACTIONS, MUTANT AND HUMAN ALIKE, KARAI RETURNS AND THE FUTURE OF THE TMNT, IN FACT ALL OF NYC, COMES DOWN TO A FINAL NEGOTIATION BETWEEN HER AND SPLINTER. IT'S THE SHOCKING CULMINATION OF NEARLY A DECADE OF STORYTELLING AS OUR HEROES FACE THEIR DARKEST HOUR AGAINST A MULTITUDE OF ENEMIES BENT ON THEIR TOTAL DESTRUCTION. FIND OUT HOW A CITY AT WAR WILL CHANGE THE WORLD FOREVER! PLUS, ABANDON ALL HOPE... AS THE MOST INFAMOUS VILLAIN IN THE TURTLES' UNIVERSE, SHREDDER, RETURNS!

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